

THE LITERARY GAZETTE

Journal of the Belles Lettres, Science, and Art.

N° 1992.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1855.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That on
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Examiners.	Salaries.	Present Examiners.
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By order of the Senate.
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Marlborough House, March 13th, 1855.

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REVIEWS.

Velasquez and his Works. By William Stirling. John W. Parker and Son.

ALTHOUGH, as Mr. Stirling informs us, the records of the life of Velazquez are more ample than those of any other artist in Spain, there is little in the personal history of the Castilian courtier to call for a special biography. No sooner had his talent for portrait-painting attracted the notice of the king, than he was called to Madrid, and taken into the royal keeping of a monarch young and ardent in his artistic tastes and pursuits, and himself a skilful draftsman; and the remainder of the painter's days were passed in the state monotony of a luxurious court. His career was unattended by the vicissitudes that commonly fall to the lot of genius. He had no disappointments to contend with in his acquirement of fame, and no self-denial to practise in the development of his cherished views. He entered the world at a time when a new era was beginning to dawn upon European art. The genius of painting, employed almost exclusively to this time, under the patronage of the Church, as a teacher of religion, was being tempted to pastures new in the fields of allegory, of history, and of landscape. Rubens was delighting the people of Flanders with the productions of his rich and gorgeous pencil, Poussin was imparting a vigour and refinement to the schools of painting in France, and ere long the "prince of painters" in Spain included among his contemporaries Vandyke, Claude, Murillo, Guido Reni, Guercino, Salvator Rosa, and Domenichino. It was in 1623 that Velazquez, at the age of twenty-four, a student of Seville, attracted the notice of the youthful Philip IV. of Spain. So highly did he estimate a portrait, executed about this time, of a kinsman of the artist's, Don Juan Fonseca, that he took him into his royal keeping, and in six months attached him officially to the court, as painter in ordinary. Velazquez lived in the sunshine of his royal patron for nearly forty years. He painted his august master at all ages, and in almost every imaginable posture—in armour and out of armour, on horseback and on foot, sporting, riding to battle, standing, sitting, reclining, and even supported by cherubs. He painted his queen and her maids of honour, his favourite dukes and nobles, and his pet minister, the Count-Duke Olivares, so many times that his face has become a stock-appearance in the continental galleries. He retained the services of a black slave to grind and compound his colours; and when the king paid any state visits, the painter in ordinary attended his majesty as aposentador-mayor, in the Castilian ruff, over a dress richly laced with silver, and a cloak embroidered with the cross of Santiago, with the badge of that order suspended from his neck, richly sparkling with brilliants.

From the court favour and interest thus attaching to art towards the middle of the seventeenth century, when our own art-loving but unhappy Charles, after a visit as Prince of Wales to the Spanish king, had begun to rival the patronage of his contemporary, some idea may be formed of the picturesque materials which have gathered round the florid pen of Mr. Stirling in the composition of this delightful book. Of Philip IV. and his immediate circle we hear more, in reality, than of the painter; and charming indeed are the

vivid descriptions of his character, tastes, pursuits, festivities, and state ceremonials. Of the character of Velazquez little was to be said beyond a record of his virtues and talents, and of both these the biographer has shown himself a partial exponent. We have no means of doubting that the favourite of Philip IV., minister for artistic affairs, filled his office "with a purity and disinterestedness very uncommon in the councils of state;" or that his character was of "that rare and happy kind, in which high intellectual power is combined with indomitable strength of will and a winning sweetness of temper, and which seldom fails to raise the possessor above his fellow men, making his life a

Laureled victory, and smooth success
Be strowed before his feet."

But few will agree with Mr. Stirling that Velazquez was, in comparison with Murillo, the greater painter. Who that looks upon the sublime conceptions of Murillo in the Louvre, purchased at the sale of Marshal Soult's pictures at the extraordinary price of 26,000*l.*, will say that it was ever equalled by Velazquez in loftiness of genius and in "celestial purity and grace." The only picture of the charms of Venus which the Court Painter ever succeeded in, and which is described by Mr. Stirling as being "painted in the master's happiest style," was purchased in this country, by the advice of Sir Thomas Lawrence, for 500*l.*, and went to the collection of Mr. Morritt, at Rokeby, Yorkshire. The highest prices ever paid for pictures by Velazquez were the two in our own National Gallery. *The Boar Hunt*, formerly in the Royal Palace, Madrid, purchased in 1846, of Lord Cowley, for 2200*l.*; and the *Adoration of the Shepherds*, purchased in 1853, at the sale of Louis Philippe's pictures, for 2050*l.*; but it is stated, on the authority of Mr. Ford, that this latter picture was purchased from the Count of Aguila, in 1832 or 1833, for 4800*l.* We pass on to another instance in which the biographer errs, in seeking to exalt the genius of Velazquez by the disparagement of his contemporaries:—

"No artist," says Mr. Stirling, "of the seventeenth century equalled Velazquez in variety of power. He tried all subjects, and he succeeded in all. Rubens, indeed, treated as many themes, and on each perhaps produced a greater number of pictures. But he approached all kinds of composition in the same spirit, a spirit of the earth, earthy, of Flanders, Flemish. Whether it be a sacred story of Bethlehem, a fable of Greek mythology, a passage in the life of Henry IV., we have the same faces and forms brought upon the stage. Even in portraiture, individuality of character is wanting; his men are generally burgomasters; his women are all, like Juno, 'ox-eyed,' which he conceived to be essential to beauty. The Virgins of his altar-pieces are the sisters of the nymphs of his allegories; his Apostles and Centurions are equally prone to leer like satyrs; and in his Silenus, St. Peter may be detected, like Sir Roger de Coverley in the Saracen's Head over the village inn."

Our readers need not to be reminded that the Trustees of the National Gallery paid nearly as much for a single picture of Rubens, not very long since, as for both these masterpieces of Velazquez, although the great Flemish painter was already well represented in the collection. We would not have it supposed that the money value of pictures is always a test of their artistic merit; but it must be admitted that the compositions of Velazquez are not remarkable for that "delineation of celestial purity and grace" which Mr. Stirling laments as being wanting in the

works of Rubens, and which is so conspicuous in the works of Murillo.

The great charm of this little volume consists, as we have said, in the brilliant historical sketches given of the Spanish Court of two hundred years back:—

"Philip IV., at this time in the nineteenth year of his age, had just commenced the third year of a reign which extended over nearly half a century. The history of this reign of forty-four years is the history of misrule at home, oppression, rapacity, and revolt in the distant provinces and colonies, declining commerce, and bloody and disastrous wars closed by the inglorious peace of the Pyrenees. The two Philips who succeeded Charles V., inheriting the ambitious policy of that monarch, with but a slender portion of his ability, and with none of his good fortune, had, each in turn, wasted the resources and enfeebled the power of the most splendid crown in the world. The fourth Philip found, in the general administration of his vast unwieldy empire, an Augean stable of abuse and corruption, which might have baffled the cleansing skill even of a monarch like Ferdinand, or a minister like Ximenes. Beyond a feeble attempt, made and relinquished in the first year of his reign, he gave no indications of a desire to accomplish the great task. The energies of his minister, Olivares, though at first turned to this end, were soon diverted by visions of military aggrandizement; and before Haro took the helm, the huge vessel of state, with its prow in the Atlantic and its stern in the Indian Ocean, was already in a foundering condition. Naturally of an indolent temper, the king was not long in making his election between a life of pleasure and a life of noble toil; he reposed supreme confidence in those whose society pleased him; and Olivares, who loved power for its own sake, dexterously turning the weakness of his master to his own account, alternately perplexed him with piles of state papers, and amused him with pretty actresses, until he felt grateful to any hand that would relieve him of the intolerable weight of his hereditary sceptre. While province after province raised the standard of rebellion, and his superb empire was crumbling to dust, the king of the Spains and the Indies acted farces in his private theatre, lounged in the studios, sat in solemn state in his balcony at bull-fights, or autos de fé, or retired to his cabinet at the Pardo, to toy with mistresses, or devise improvements on his gardens and galleries."

"But though careless and inefficient in the discharge of his kingly functions, Philip IV. was a man of considerable talent, and some intellectual activity. As a patron of literature and art, he was second in knowledge and munificence to no contemporary prince. During his reign, the Castilian stage was at the height of its glory; no expense was spared in representing the thick-coming pieces of the veteran Lope, or the classical Calderon; and the musical and dramatic entertainments of Buenretiro rivalled in splendour those of the English court when Ben Jonson and Inigo Jones combined their talents to furnish forth the masques of Whitehall. The denizens of the palace breathed an atmosphere of letters; Luis de Gongora, by his contemporaries called the Pindar, and by modern critics the Cowley of Spain, was one of the King's chaplains; Velez de Guevara held the post of chamberlain, and the versatile Quevedo that of royal secretary, until one of his poems aroused the resentment of the implacable Olivares. Bartolomé Argensola was historiographer-royal for Aragon; Antonio de Solis was a minister of state; and the cross of Santiago rewarded the literary abilities of Calderon—the Shakespeare of Spain—and the poet Francisco de Roxas. Nor was Philip a mere lover and protector of literature; he wrote his own fine language in a style of purity and elegance which has seldom been surpassed by any royal or noble author; and several volumes of his translations from the Italian, and miscellaneous works, are said to exist in manuscript, in the royal library of Madrid. Pellicer de Salas, a contemporary critic, praises him as one of the best musicians

and poets of the day. Descending from the vantage-ground of royalty, and assuming the title of an *Ingenio de esta corte*, he even measured his strength with the wits, in the crowded field of dramatic composition; and his tragedy on the story of the English favourite, *Essex*, still maintains its place in collections of Castilian plays. He likewise often acted, with other *ingenios* of the court, in the popular *comedias de repente*, in which a given plot was wrought out by means of extemporaneous dialogues.

"In painting, as in literature, Philip gave evidence of his practical skill. Like his father and grandfather, he had been taught drawing, as a part of his education; and under the instructions of the good Dominican, Juan Bautista Mayno, he became the best artist of the house of Austria. Butron, who published his '*Discourses on Painting*' in 1626, bears his testimony to the merit of the young king's numerous pictures and drawings. One of the latter, a pen-and-ink sketch of St. John Baptist with a lamb, having been sent to Seville, in 1619, by Olivares, fell into the hands of Pacheco, and became the subject of a eulogistic poem by Juan de Espinosa, who foretold, in the reign of this royal painter, a new age of gold,—

Para animar la lassitud de Hesperia.

Carducho mentions a more finished production of the royal pencil—an oil-picture of the Virgin—as being kept in his time in the jewel-chamber of the palace; and Palomino notices two pictures, bearing the signature of Philip IV., and placed by Charles II. in the Escorial, probably the two infant St. Johns, seen by Ponz in an oratory near the chamber of the prior."

The royal amateur indulged his passion for art with an amount of energy, and lack of reserve, opposed to which the royal prudence of our own Court in the present day stands out in striking contrast:—

"During his progress through Andalusia, in the spring of 1624, amidst grand hunting parties at country castles, and the pompous festivities of cities, the artist monarch carefully explored the fine churches and convents that lay in his way; and whilst residing in the beautiful Alcázar of Seville, he showed no less taste than clemency, in pardoning Herrera the Elder, accused of coining false money, for the sake of his picture of *St. Hermengild*. At Valencia the painters used to record with pride his remark on the fine pictures by Aregio and Neapoli on the doors of the great silver altar of the cathedral. 'The altar,' said the king, 'is silver, but the doors are gold.'

"To acquire works of art was the chief pleasure of Philip, and it was the only business in which he displayed earnestness and constancy. Rich as were the galleries of Philip II., his grandson must, at the least, have doubled the number and value of their contents. His viceroys and ambassadors, besides their daily duties of fiscal extortion and diplomatic intrigue, were required to buy up, at any price, all fine works of art that came into the market. He likewise employed agents of inferior rank, and more trustworthy taste, of whom Velazquez was one, to travel abroad for the same purpose, to cull the fairest flowers of the modern studios, and to procure good copies of those ancient pictures and statues which money could not purchase. The gold of Mexico and Peru was freely bartered for the artistic treasures of Italy and Flanders. The king of Spain was a collector with whom it was vain to compete, and in the prices which he paid for the gems of painting and sculpture, if in nothing else, he was in advance of his age. From a convent at Palermo, he bought, for an annual pension of 1000 crowns, Raphael's famous picture of our Lord going to Calvary, known as the *Spasimo*, which he named his 'Jewel.' His ambassador to the English Commonwealth, Don Alonso de Cardenas, was the principal buyer at the sale at Whitehall, when the noble gallery of Charles I. was dispersed by the Protector. There Philip, for the sum of 2000*l.*, became possessed of that lovely *Holy Family*, Raphael's most exquisitely finished

work, once the pride of Mantua, which he fondly called his 'Pearl,' a graceful name, which may perhaps survive the picture. To him the Escorial likewise owed Raphael's heavenly *Virgin of the Fish*, carried, with the *Spasimo* and the 'Pearl,' to Paris, by Napoleon; but happily restored to the Queen of Spain's gallery; and the charming *Madonna of the Tent*, bought from the spoilers in 1813, for 5000*l.*, by the king of Bavaria, and now the glory and the model of Munich. He also enriched his collection with many fine Venetian pictures, amongst which was *Adonis asleep on the lap of Venus*, the masterpiece of Paul Veronese, a gem of the royal gallery of Spain, where it rivals the *Venus and Adonis* of Titian in magical effect and voluptuous beauty. Of the rich compositions of Domenichino, the soft virgins of Guido and Guerchino, the Italian nymphs of Albano, the classical landscapes of 'learned Poussin,' Salvator Rosa's brown solitudes or sparkling seaports, and Claude Lorraine's glorious dreams of Elysian earth and ocean,—his walls were adorned with excellent specimens, fresh from the studio; and also of the works of Rubens, Vandyck, Jordaens, Snyders, Crayer, Teniers, and the other able artists who flourished in that age in Flanders. The grandes and nobles, like the English lords of Charles I., knowing the predilections of their master, frequently showed their loyalty and taste, by presenting him with pictures and statues. Thus the gay and gallant duke of Medina de las Torres—better known to the world as the marquess of Toral, in 'Gil Blas'—gave Correggio's *Christ appearing to Mary Magdalene after his Resurrection*, the *Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple*, by Paul Veronese, and the *Virgin's flight into Egypt*, by Titian; Don Luis de Haro, Titian's *Repose of the Virgin*, an *Ecce Homo*, by Paul Veronese, and *Christ at the Column*, by Cambiaso; and the admiral of Castile, St. Margaret restoring a *Boy to Life*, by Caravaggio."

Velazquez increased in favour, and his ovation on completing his first equestrian portrait of the king is thus enthusiastically described:—

"Velazquez finished the portrait of the king on the 30th of August, and the work at once fixed his position as the most popular artist of the day. Philip was portrayed in his armour, and mounted on a fine Andalusian charger, the position which best became him, for we have it on the authority of the great master of equitation, the Duke of Newcastle, that he was absolutely the best horseman in all Spain."

"The picture was exhibited, by the royal permission, on a day of festival, in front of the church of San Felipe el Real, in the High-street (*Calle Mayor*) of Madrid, amidst the admiration of the citizens and the envy of the artists. 'There, in the open air, did Velazquez, like the painters of Greece, listen to the praises of a delighted public.' The king was charmed with his own likeness; the court re-echoed the royal raptures; Velez de Guevara composed a sonnet, extolling the picture to the skies; and the count-duke, proud of his young countryman, declared that the portrait of his majesty had never been painted until now. Such a remark, from the lips of a prime-minister with pretensions to connoisseurship, must have been no less galling to Carducho, Caxes, and the other court-painters who had accomplished the same task with credit, than flattering to Velazquez. The king followed up the blow by talking of collecting and cancelling his existing portraits. He paid the handsome sum of three hundred ducats for the present picture. And emulous of Alexander the Great and Charles V., and believing that he had now found an Apelles or a Titian, he resolved that in future Velazquez should have the monopoly of his royal countenance for all purposes of painting. This resolution he kept far more religiously than his marriage vows, for he appears to have departed from it during the lifetime of his chosen artist, in favour only of Rubens and Crayer."

Another equestrian portrait of the king, painted by Velazquez the following year, and

when he was yet but twenty-five, Mr. Stirling pronounces to be "one of the finest portraits in the world:—"

"The king is in the glow of youth and health, and in the full enjoyment of his fine horse, and the breeze blowing freshly from the distant hills; he wears dark armour, over which flutters a crimson scarf; a hat with black plumes covers his head, and his right hand grasps a truncheon. All the accessories, the saddle, embroidered breast-plate, and long sharp bit, are painted with the utmost care. The horse, evidently a portrait of some favourite of the royal stud, is bright bay, with a white face and white legs; his tail is a vast avalanche of black hair, and his mane streams far below the golden stirrup; and as he springs into the air in a sprightly ballottade, he realizes Céspedes' poetical description, and justifies Newcastle's praise of the Cordobese barb, the proud king of horses, and the fittest horse for a king."

In 1629 Velazquez obtained leave to visit Italy. At Venice he was lodged at the palace of the Spanish ambassador, and at Rome apartments were offered to him by Pope Urban VIII. in the Vatican. The glorious progress of art in the eternal city at this period fills Mr. Stirling's pen with inspiration:—

"Happier than Venice, Rome at this epoch could boast more artistic talent than had been found within her walls at one time since the days of Michael Angelo. Many of the Bolognese masters were sojourning for a season, or had fixed their abode, in the capital. Domenichino and Guerchino were now engaged on some of their best works, the *Communion of St. Jerome*, and the *Finding of the Body of St. Petronilla*; the Grotto Ferrata, and the Lodovisi frescos. Guido Reni alternated between the excitements of the gaming table, and the sweet creations of his smooth-flowing pencil. Albani, the Anacreon of painting, was adorning the halls of the Borghese and the Aldobrandini with cool forest glades, peopled with sportive loves and graces. The great landscape painters of France, Poussin and Claude, were laying the foundations of their delightful and fertile schools. Beautiful fountains, palaces, and churches, rising in all quarters of the city, displayed the architectural genius of Bernini, the friend of popes, the favourite of princes, and the most busy and versatile of men. This society of able artists was unhappily divided, by ignoble jealousies and personal quarrels, into many factions; from which Velazquez stood aloof, without avoiding the society of the better spirits of the band."

"Attracted, as spring advanced, by the airy and agreeable situation of the Villa-Medici, built on the ancient gardens of Lucullus, he obtained permission from the Tuscan government, through the good offices of the tasteful Count of Monterey, ambassador of Spain, to take up his quarters there for a season. This villa, hanging on the wooded brow of the Pincian hill, commands from its windows and garden-Belvedere, the whole circuit of the city, the Campagna bestrode by hoary aqueducts, and the yellow windings of the Anio and the Tiber. It contained, at this time, a noble collection of antique marbles, and the stranger from the land of painted wooden sculpture, lodged under the same roof with the peerless *Venus of Adrian* and the Medici. Bought thirty-seven years afterwards by Colbert, for the French Academy of Painting founded by Louis XIV., this temporary residence of Velazquez has since been the home of most of the great artists of France, during their student days, since the time of Poussin. Its beautiful garden, long a fashionable resort, has now fallen into comparative neglect; but the lover of scenery and meditation, once attracted thither, will find his 'due feet never fail' to linger, at noon beneath the alleys of tufted ilex, or at sunset, on the crumbling terrace, while twilight closes over the city and its giant dome."

On the restoration of peace in 1660 between France and Spain, a grand meeting was held

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between the two courts at the Isle of Pheasants, to celebrate the nuptials of Louis XIV. with the Infanta Maria Teresa, and it became the duty of Velazquez as aposentador to superintend the arrangements. He had to erect a building at the place of meeting, and to adorn the walls with tissues and tapestry, and to provide lodging for the king and court along the whole road from Madrid. Philip IV. travelled with a train of oriental magnitudes:—

"On the 15th of April, having made his will and commended himself to Our Lady of Atocha, that monarch set out from the capital, accompanied by the Infanta, and followed by three thousand five hundred mules, eighty-two horses, seventy coaches, and seventy baggage wagons. The baggage of the royal bride alone would have served for a small army. Her dresses were packed in twelve large trunks, covered with crimson velvet, and mounted with silver; twenty morocco trunks contained her linen; and fifty mules were laden with her toilette-plate and perfumes. Besides these personal equipments, she carried a vast provision of presents, amongst which were two chests filled with purses, amber-gloves, and whisker-cases for her future brother-in-law the Duke of Orleans. The grandees of the household vied with each other in the size and splendour of their retinues. The cavalcade extended six leagues in length, and the trumpets of the van were sounding at the gate of Alcala de Henares, the first day's halting-place, ere the last files had issued from the gate of Madrid. The whole journey, through Burgos and Vittoria, was a triumph and a revel. At Guadalaxara, the royal travellers lodged in the noble palace of the Mendozas; at Lerma, in that of the Sandovals; at Bribeasca, in that of the Velascos. Grandees and municipal bodies lavished vast sums on bull-feasts and fire-works for their entertainment; prelates did the honours of their noble cathedrals; abbots came forth with their most holy reliques; bonfires blazed on the savage crags of Pancorvo; the burghers of Mondragon turned out under arms which their forefathers had borne against Pedro the Cruel; peasants of Guipuzcoa danced their strange sword-dances with loyal vigour before their king; and the Roncesvalles, hugest of galleons, floated for his inspection, and stunned his ears with salutes in the waters of Passages. Pending the final negotiations, Philip IV. and the Infanta remained for three weeks at St. Sebastian, where his majesty's table was sometimes nearly overturned by the throngs of French who came to see him dine. On the 2nd of June they prepared to Fuenterrabia; the King of France and the Queen-mother having already arrived at their frontier town of St. Jean de Luz.

"The next day the Infanta solemnly abjured those rights to the Spanish crown which were so successfully asserted by her grandson; and on the 3rd she was married to Harro, as proxy of the French king, by the Bishop of Pamplona, in the old church of Our Lady. On the 4th of June, the pavilion of Velazquez was inaugurated by the private interview between the Queen-mother of France and her brother and niece, the King of Spain and the Infanta. Philip and Anne, who had not seen each other for nearly forty years, met with much affection, although Philip would not permit his sister to kiss him. They condoled with each other on the war which had so long exhausted their realms, and which the Spanish king, in his sententious way, said was the devil's doing. During this interview Louis was in an adjoining chamber, and he and his bride saw each other for the first time, peeping through a door left ajar for the purpose. The day following all the royal personages met in formal conference, when the two kings signed and swore to the treaty, and afterwards held a joint court, where Mazarin presented the French nobles to Philip, and Harro introduced the Castilians to Louis. The parting gifts sent by the latter to his father-in-law—a diamond badge of the golden fleece, a watch encrusted with brilliants, and other kingly toys—were conveyed to him by the

hands of Velazquez. On the 7th of June, the royal personages again met to take leave, and Philip bade farewell for ever to his sister and his child.

"During the week which the courts of Spain and France passed on the frontier of the kingdoms, the banks of the Bidasoa furnished scenes worthy of the pencil of Titian and the pen of Scott, and its island pavilion historical groups such as romance has rarely assembled. There was Philip IV., forty years a king, with his proud and regal port, which neither infirmity, nor grief, nor misfortune, had been able to subdue;—and Louis XIV. in the dawn of his fame and the flower of his beauty. There were two queens, both daughters of Austria, in whom also great experience was contrasted with the innocence of youth, and whose lives exemplify the vicissitudes of high place: Anne, by turns a neglected consort, an imperious regent, and a forgotten exile; and Maria Teresa, the most amiable of Austrian princesses, who, though eclipsed in her own court, and in her husband's affections, aspired in an age of universal gallantry to no higher praise than the name of a loving mother and a true and gentle wife. The Italian cardinal was there, upon whom the mantle of Richelieu had fallen, with his broken form but keen eye, that read in the new alliance the future glory of France and Mazarin; the cool, wily Harro, in his new honours as Prince of the Peace, a title which so well became the ablest minister and worst captain of Castile; Turenne, fresh from his victory at the Dunes; the old Maréchal de Villeroi, and the young Duke of Créqui; Medina de las Torres, the model and mirror of grandees; young Guiche, with his romantic air, the future hero of a hundred amours and of the passage of the Rhine; Monterey and Heliche; and a noble throng of des Noailles and d'Harcourts, Guzmans and Toledos. There, too, was the aposentador and painter of the King of Spain, Diego Velazquez. Although no longer young, he was distinguished, even in that proud assemblage, by his fine person and tasteful attire. Over a dress richly laced with silver, he wore the usual Castilian ruff, and a short cloak embroidered with the red cross of Santiago; the badge of the order, sparkling with brilliants, was suspended from his neck by a gold chain; and the scabbard and hilt of his sword were of silver, exquisitely chased, and of Italian workmanship.

"The rejoicings which celebrated the royal marriage were worthy of the two most sumptuous courts in Europe, now vying with each other in pomp and magnificence.

To tell the glory of the feast each day,
The goodly service, the deceitful sights,
The bridegroom's state, the bride's most rich array,
The royal banquets and the rare delights—
Were worth fit for an herald.

The mornings were dedicated to the exchange of visits and compliments; the evenings to brilliant revelry. The hills re-echoed the roar of cannon from Fuenterrabia and St. Jean de Luz; cavalcades, gay with the blue and gold of the French guards and the scarlet and yellow of the Spanish, swept along the green meadows beneath the poplar-crowned brow of Irún; and gilded barges and bands of music floated all day on the bosom of the Bidasoa. The Spaniards marvelled at the vivid attire of the French gallants, and at the short tails of their horses. The Frenchmen, on their side, shrugged their shoulders at the sad-coloured suits of the Castilian nobles and the ill-fashioned robes of their ladies; and envied the profusion and splendour of their jewels. But if the grandees were outdone by the seigneurs in brilliancy of costume, the lackeys of Madrid out-blazed their brethren of Paris: on each of the three great days they appeared in fresh liveries; and the servants of Medina de las Torres wore the value of 40,000 ducats on their backs.

"At daybreak on the 8th of June the King sent the Count of Puñorostrro for the last tidings of the young queen of France. On the same morning he and his train set forth from the Castle of Fuenterrabia. In this journey he was attended by Velazquez, who sent forward his deputy Villareal to prepare quarters on the road. On the 15th of

June they reached Burgos, where they attended a solemn service in the superb cathedral, and witnessed a grand procession of the clergy. From thence they struck into a new road, and meeting by the way with the usual honours and acclamations, entered the city of Valladolid on the 18th, and reposed there for four days in the spacious palace of the crown, the birth-place of Philip IV. Here the king visited his pleasant gardens on the banks of the Pisuerga; was entertained with fire-works on the water; saw the nobles of the city display their prowess at the cane-play and in the slaughter of bulls, and their wit and magnificence at a masquerade; paid his adorations at the shrine of Our Lady of San Llorente; attended a comedy; and looked down from a balcony of the palace on a 'Mogiganga'—a game in which the performers came disguised as Gog and Magog, wild beasts, and fabulous monsters. He likewise favoured the soil of his native city, as the historian of his progress politely phrased it, by going on foot to hear mass in the conventual church of St. Paul, his place of baptism, a splendid temple, rich with memorials of the artists of Valladolid. Here, doubtless, Velazquez did not fail to examine the fine works with which the city then teemed, of Becerra, Juni, and Hernandez. On the 26th of June his majesty embraced the queen and the young infanta, at the Casa del Campo, and gave thanks for his safe return to his capital at the shrine of Our Lady of Atocha."

The labour and anxiety of this pageantry, consequent on his court appointment, cost Velazquez his life. Soon after his return to Madrid he felt feverish and unwell, and on the 6th of August of the same year he breathed his last:—

"The corpse, habited in the full dress of a knight of Santiago, lay for two days in state, in a chamber illuminated with tapers, and furnished with a crucifix and altar. On Sunday, the 8th, it was put into a coffin covered with black velvet, and garnished with gilt ornaments, the knightly cross, and the keys of chamberlain and aposentador-mayor; and at night it was carried with great pomp to the parish church of San Juan. There it was placed in the principal chapel, in a temporary monument, lit by twelve silver candelabra blazing with waxen tapers; and the burial service was sung by the royal choristers, in the presence of a great concourse of knights and nobles. The coffin was finally lowered into the vault beneath the family chapel of the Fuensalidas. If a monument were ever erected to Velazquez, it was destroyed by the French, who, in 1811, pulled down the church of San Juan, a paltry edifice, but deserving of respect for the sake of the ashes in its keeping. A bas-relief, in which he is represented as receiving his order from the hands of Philip IV., has lately been inserted in the pedestal of that monarch's equestrian statue in front of the palace. This is the sole public tribute which Madrid has yet paid to its peculiar artist, the prince of Spanish painters."

We must find room for one word concerning the history of Velazquez's faithful colour-grinder:—

"The scholars whom Velazquez left behind him were not numerous, nor have any of them proved his rivals in the favour of posterity.

"Juan de Pareja, one of the ablest, and better known to fame as the slave of Velazquez, was born at Seville, in 1606. His parents belonged to the class of slaves then numerous in Andalusia, the descendants of negroes imported in large numbers into Spain by the Moriscos in the sixteenth century; and in the African hue and features of their son, there is evidence that they were mulattos, or that one or other of them was a black. It is not known whether he came into the possession of Velazquez by purchase or by inheritance, but he was in his service as early as 1623, when he accompanied him to Madrid. Being employed to clean the brushes, grind the colours, prepare the palettes, and do the other menial work of the studio, and

living amongst pictures and painters, he early acquired an acquaintance with the implements of art, and an ambition to use them. He therefore watched the proceedings of his master, and privately copied his works with the eagerness of a lover and the secrecy of a conspirator. In the Italian journeys in which he accompanied Velazquez, he seized every opportunity of improvement; and in the end he became an artist of no mean skill. But his nature was so reserved, and his candle so jealously concealed under its bushel, that he had returned from his second visit to Rome, and had reached the mature age of forty-five, before his master became aware that he could use the brushes which he washed.

"When at last he determined on laying aside the mask, he contrived that it should be removed by the hand of the king. Finishing a small picture with peculiar care, he deposited it in his master's studio, with its face turned to the wall. A picture so placed arouses curiosity, and is perhaps more certain to attract the eye of the loitering visitor than if it were hung up for the purpose of being seen. When Philip IV. visited Velazquez, he never failed to cause the daub or the masterpiece that happened to occupy such a position to be paraded for his inspection. He therefore fell at once into the trap, and being pleased with the work, asked for the author. Pareja, who took care to be at the royal elbow, immediately fell on his knees owning his guilt, and praying for his majesty's protection. The good-natured king, turning to Velazquez, said, 'You see that a painter like this ought not to remain a slave.' Pareja, kissing the royal hand, rose from the ground a free man. His master gave him a formal deed of manumission, and received the colour-grinder as a scholar. The attached follower, however, remained with him till he died: and continued in the service of his daughter, the wife of Maso Martinez, until his own death, in 1670."

We regard this little volume of 250 pages as a model which the writers of biography would do well to study. Allowing for a little overcolouring, it is a sparkling production of the highest artistic and historical value.

The Crimea and Odessa: Journal of a Tour, with an Account of the Climate and Vegetation. By Dr. Charles Koch, author of 'Travels in the Caucasus.' Translated by Joanna B. Horner. Murray.

Dr. Koch's tour in the Crimea was made in the autumn of 1844, at the close of a more extensive journey in the Caucasus, undertaken for scientific purposes, and for which he received assistance from the Russian Government and the Academy of Sciences in Berlin. Political events having turned the attention of the whole world to this region, the author naturally deemed that the record of his observations would not be unwelcome. Accordingly, in the autumn of last year, as soon as the expedition to the Crimea became known, Dr. Koch published the narrative of his tour, retaining the form of a journal in which it was originally written. The fact of this journal having been prepared without any reference to political events, renders it the more valuable as a record of personal observations and a faithful description of the country. There is no book which, within the same compass, contains so much information concerning the Crimea and its inhabitants. Political discussions are almost entirely avoided, the author only professing, as a man of science, to give a description of the natural features of the country. But besides giving an account of the physical geography, geology, climate, and vegetation, there are many interesting notices of the condition of the people, their customs, manners, and occupations. In the general

condition and resources of the country there have not been great changes during the last ten years, and the information in this book might be turned to practical account, both for political and for strategical use, if the allied armies do not confine their efforts to the reduction of Sebastopol. Kertch was the point at which Dr. Koch commenced his Crimean tour, having crossed the straits from Taman. At Kaffa, the ancient Theodosia, he spent some time, exploring the antiquities of the place, and the natural history of the surrounding country. From Kaffa he proceeded to Simferopol, the chief city of the Taurian government, the journey of 108 versts or 72 miles occupying about eight hours:—

"Simferopol is situated to the north of the Crimean chain of mountains. We left these on our left hand, and presently once more entered the open steppe. I had read much, and heard more, of the fertility of the Crimea, so that I really could not understand, while traversing the peninsula to the above-mentioned capital, how the chief portion of the way was a dreary pampas, in place of a fertile and cultivated soil. The country between Theodosia and Simferopol does not indeed properly deserve the name of steppe, at least during the autumn season. If the soil of which the peninsula of Kertch is composed had an ashy grey and disagreeable appearance, this was more the case in the interior of the Crimea. It is true I saw the same plants prevalent here as there, but they were more miserable in appearance, and did not grow so thickly. Besides this, the nearer we approached Simferopol, the ground consisted of a dazzling and very friable white limestone, only here and there covered with a slight crust of vegetable soil. The surface was rapidly dissolved by the wind and weather, and a fine dust was driven by the wind into our faces. Now, if the sight of such a dazzling white limestone surface made a most unpleasant impression on the sight, the limestone-dust which was flying about in the air was still more painful, as it is very apt to produce inflammation in the eye, which lasts for a long time. Even the inhabitants of the steppe, who are more accustomed to it, do not unfrequently suffer from an epidemic, the so-called Egyptian ophthalmia.

"Wherever a spring of water flows out of the ground, it produces a more pleasing and verdant aspect, but these fertile spots, true oases, did not fall to the lot of the Tartars, the original proprietors of the Crimea; because, having no fixed abode upon them, the land was pronounced to belong to no one, and was accordingly seized by the Russians, and Russian nobles now hold these oases for the benefit of their estates, or only for farms.

"There is only one great Tartar village on the whole extent of road, and it is said to contain 15,000 inhabitants. It is called after the little river on which it is situated, 'Black Water Market' (and not Red Water Market, as is stated by Kohl), for this is the meaning of the Tartar word 'Kara-Su-Basar.' We here seem again to be suddenly transported to the East, even more, indeed, than in almost all the Russian and other Trans-Caucasian places. Catherine II. only left two places, Kara-Su-Basar and Baktchi-Sarai, where the Tartars might live undisturbed, following their own customs. Hitherto the promise of the great empress has been faithfully kept, and Tartars alone venture to make these two places their constant residence. Kara-Su-Basar reminded me also of Trebizond, at least of the actual inner town. Narrow, crooked streets, which could be partly traversed with carriages, also occur here. High white walls separate the court-yard from the street; the dwelling-house of the family is situated behind, and a garden, in which the females can enjoy the open air, without being gazed at by strange men.

"Kara-Su-Basar is rich in mosques; it is said that two-and-twenty are now in existence; and also in minarets, of which I counted seven. The

first had generally large square chambers, exhibiting, externally at least, nothing but white walls; the latter, on the other hand, were particularly slender and ornamental, and looked extremely beautiful amidst the complicated towers of houses, and the fresh verdure of the gardens. A Tartar village of this description is unquestionably far more picturesque than a Russian town, where unfortunately the large and otherwise handsome churches and towers frequently leave an unpleasant impression on the eye, owing to their varied colours."

Simferopol at that time had about 8000 inhabitants, among whom were many Jews, of whom the Prussian traveller speaks in terms of hearty detestation:—

"Whoever has resided any length of time in Poland, Lithuania, and the other Russian provinces inhabited by Jews, and has watched their habits, will, I am sure, agree with me. The Russian government is in duty bound to protect the other inhabitants from the manifold importunities and oppressions on the part of the Jews. It is the rarest instance when Jewish families there support themselves by the work of their hands and by industrious habits; for, with few praiseworthy exceptions, they shun labour as they would fire, and fix themselves like bloodsuckers upon the remaining better portion of the inhabitants, in order, by the industry of these last, to maintain themselves in an easier manner. They generally carry on a profitable trade with all kinds of small ware, and serve as intermediate agents to the common people, who, in Poland and Russia, as almost everywhere else, are still in a most miserable condition. The traffic, however, with the poor and ignorant peasantry is not maintained as an honourable footing, for every means is employed by the Jews to derive as much advantage as possible, and cheating is not uncommon. As the Jew alone has ready money, it is to him that the peasantry apply whenever they require it, and they must then either pay an increasing rate of interest, which at length becomes exorbitant, or sacrifice the revenue they derive from their corn or cattle for several years to come. In addition to this the Jews generally keep the brandy-shops, thereby directly contributing to the demoralisation of the people."

The Karaites Jews, of whom a large colony has been settled from time immemorial in the Crimea, bear a very different character from their Talmudist brethren. They are more industrious and honest, and enjoy better reputation, so that on signboards of shops in Sebastopol it is sometimes announced that the tradesman is of the sect of the Karaites. Chuphut Kaleh has been their head quarters for many centuries, tradition reporting that they were flourishing here at the beginning of the Tartar rule in the country. Dr. Koch visited the synagogue, and found the Rabbi a friendly and intelligent man. With him he went to the cemetery, in a part of a ravine which is called the Valley of Jehoshaphat:—

"The Jewish burial-grounds have elsewhere always made a melancholy impression on me, especially in Constantinople and in Asia; but here it was totally different. I indeed saw the same dazzling white limestone slabs, but the grave-stones stood beside one another in perfect order, frequently closely covered with gilt inscriptions, and the hallowed spots were shaded by oaks and elms. The glaring white was wonderfully softened by the lovely green of the foliage of the trees, but one gravestone exactly resembled the other."

This excursion to Chuphut Kaleh was made from Baktchi Sarai, the ancient capital of the Krim Tartars. The topography and appearance of this town, the name of which has become familiar of late, are thus described:—

"There is no appearance of Baktchi Sarai

fore reaching the entrance of the narrow valley in which it is situated. * * * A deep ravine passes across the chalk-limestone, through which flows a rapid stream, the Juruk Su. The sides of the ravine near the outlet are much inclined, but farther up the valley the rocks are very precipitous. As it is only between five hundred and one thousand paces wide, just enough space is left for a road and two rows of houses. Of course the latter cannot occupy much extent of ground, at least in breadth; so that the houses are necessarily small. They lean to the back against the hill, the lower portion of which is less precipitous, and, planted with all kinds of shrubs, but principally fruit-trees, serves as a garden to the inhabitants. A court is frequently situated in front, enclosed by a high wall. The houses have no flat roofs, but gables, the sides inclining at a right angle on either side. Gutter-tiles are used for the roofing, and the tall chimneys have a very good effect, as seen from a distance, harmonizing with the still taller and numerous minarets, which strongly reminded us of Gothic architecture. * * *

"Baktchi Sarai extends for above half a mile along the valley, which retains almost the same width throughout. There are booths generally in front of the houses on either side, in which the artisans work and sell their goods. The leather-work is celebrated; shoes, scabbards for kindshals, plectrums or riding-whips, &c.; and these are not only used in the Crimea, but are exported to other parts. Many things reminded me of genuine Turkish cities; for instance, the 'kebabehi,' those cook-shops where the food is prepared in the open streets. A great copper kettle, resting on a kind of hearth, contains the mutton, which is rendered piquant by the addition of all kinds of spices, but especially by onions; when ready, it is placed on flat dishes, and offered for sale."

From Baktchi Sarai Dr. Koch went to Sebastopol, of the fortifications of which, and the various public buildings and works, descriptions are given, as they were at the time of his visit. The appearance of the town is widely different now from what is here described:—

"The town itself has a particularly cheerful appearance, from trees growing in front of many of the houses, and there are even some arbours, chiefly formed by vines. In this respect Catherine-street deserves to be mentioned before all the others, especially as it is not so inordinately wide as is usually the case in Russia. The officers and those in high official situations reside not far from the military harbour; the married sailors, non-commissioned officers, and subalterns, on the other hand, nearer the sea. The tower-like building containing the library stands on a high point of the city, and might be taken for an observatory. * * *

"A new church stands not far from the library, which has been copied from the Temple of Theseus at Athens. It is a Basilica, surrounded by Doric columns, and is distinguished advantageously from all other Russian churches by the extreme simplicity of the interior, not being overloaded as usual with indifferent or bad pictures."

In 1844 there were no fortifications on the land side, and Dr. Koch says in his journal that it could be easily taken. He has added a few sentences on the position of an invading army, even if successful in the capture of Sebastopol:—

"We must remember that Russia has two depôts in the neighbourhood, from which reinforcements might be supplied at the shortest notice—Vosnesensk, the great military colony of Russia, situated not far from the mouth of the Boug, a navigable river; and the Caucasus, where hitherto between 160,000 and 180,000 men have been employed in opposition to the mountainous tribes. From this last, as we have already seen, 60,000 to 80,000 men might, without endangering the Russian provinces, either to the north or beyond the Caucasian range, be speedily embarked at Poti or at Soukhoum Kaleh, or might be employed in

simultaneous operations in Armenia and Asia Minor.

"We therefore perceive that the Western Powers and Austria are under many disadvantages, and accordingly that nothing should be left undone in order to be prepared for possible contingencies. The destruction of Sevastopol, and the annihilation of the by no means despicable Russian fleet in the Black Sea, would certainly offer security for the moment, and I believe that this is all which is now contemplated by the Western Powers, and that they have no intention of occupying the Crimea or Sevastopol on a permanent footing."

We pass over the author's notices of Balaklava, Eupatoria, and other places on the coast, of which, since the commencement of the war, frequent accounts have been published. In the description of the journey from Simferopol to Perekop, the features of the country are clearly described, and we understand the nature of the ground on which operations will be conducted in case of a campaign in the Crimea:—

"The distance from Simferopol to Perekop, where the peninsula of the Crimea joins the continent, is 142 versts (about 95 English miles). If to this we add the distance from Simferopol to the coast of the Black Sea, therefore to Aloushta, which amounts to 44 versts (about 29 English miles), we obtain the greatest breadth of the Crimea, 186 versts, or 124 English miles. The length from east to west, including the peninsula of Kertch in the east, is about 170 English miles, therefore about one-third more.

"On leaving Simferopol the nummulitic limestone disappears, and is replaced by a still more recent tertiary limestone. This also gives place soon afterwards to the newest tertiary formations, the so-called steppe limestone, which, under the name of Kertch limestone, forms a ridge, though not a lofty one, near the town itself. After this point there is no longer any appearance of bare rock; it is everywhere covered by soil, exhibiting very different amounts of thickness, which rests on the alluvium. A few miles from Simferopol the ground becomes so level that there is not even the slightest undulation. The same wearisome uniformity, without any interruption, continues the whole way to Perekop. We did not see a single village between the two towns, and the miserable appearance of the five post-stations formed hardly any break to the tiresome monotony of the scene. I will mention their names, as they are in general written falsely on the maps, although they have nothing further to recommend them to notice. Sarabous, Trekablem, Aibar, Dyurmenek, and Yushun, are situated 17, 24, 22, 24, and 21 versts apart. We did not even meet a single herd of cattle or flock of sheep, and human beings were only visible at the stations.

"Travellers often compare these entire days of monotonous travelling to the sea, where there is nothing but the sky above and the water beneath; but in the latter case the slightest wind occasions an uneven surface in the water, the ship is pursued by porpoises eager to snap up any scraps that may fall, and some variety is produced by other marine creatures; while a plain, like that in the north of the Crimea and in the south of Russia in the autumn, presents a most dreary aspect, all vegetation having nearly disappeared, except the hoary kinds of mugwort and white horehound, and now and then perhaps a few knapweeds. The beautiful blue autumnal sky which arched over us formed a disagreeable contrast with the greyish-black ground. The withered stalks, without a green or even dried-up leaf, and the cracks in the ground, could scarcely be called variety; and the only idea it was possible to entertain was the constant and, even in this dreary wilderness, the grand image of eternity. In whichever direction we turned there was nothing to bound the view, not a single object to arrest the eye even for a moment.

"Although the Crimea is now inhabited by only

one-third of its former numbers, these plains exhibit somewhat more animation at other seasons of the year, and in the spring-time there is even a certain amount of activity and intercourse visible. The variegated steppe is then traversed by thousands of sheep and cattle, which feed upon the herbs, at that season full of sap, and are led by shepherds and dogs."

The whole Tartar population of the Crimea is estimated at about 60,000 souls. The resources and fertility of the country seem to have been generally overrated. Dr. Koch says, that for some reason there has been studious deception kept up on this subject, numerous places being inserted in the maps which have no existence, and which give a false idea of the populousness of the country. An explanation of this may partly be found in the nomadic habits of the Tartars, who change their residence according to the state of the pasturage for their flocks, and the sites of their temporary huts remain marked as villages in the maps. The climate also is far inferior to what is generally supposed. The violent storms are described, of which during last winter we have known too fatal an example. In the supplement many details are given as to the climate and vegetation, with lists of the plants, both indigenous and under cultivation. On the south coast between Yalta and Baidar, at Aloupka, Livadia, Orianda, and other places belonging to the Czar and to Russian noblemen, horticulture is carried to much perfection, and the Imperial Botanic Garden at Nikila is an establishment of great efficiency. The botanical notes of Dr. Koch throughout the work will be valued by naturalists; but for the majority of readers, those parts of the journal will at present have greater interest which have relation to political and military events. After leaving the Crimea, Dr. Koch visited Khereson, and Nicolaev, the great military colony and arsenal of Russia, at the junction of the Boug and the Ingoul. It is from this place, as well as from Odessa, which is also described by Dr. Koch, that reinforcements and supplies are poured into the Crimea. A map of the Crimea and adjacent parts accompanies the volume.

The Moslem and the Christian; or, Adventures in the East.—By Sadyk Pasha. Translated, with Original Notes, by Colonel Lach Szyrma, author of 'Revelations of Siberia.' Hurst and Blackett.

UNDER the form of fiction this work is full of interesting matter relating to the history, politics, and manners of the people of the Danubian provinces. The story is founded on facts, and few of the incidents and characters have not had counterparts in real life. The title of the work as written by Sadyk Pasha was Kirdjali, this being the name of the hero of the tale. The word *Kirdjali* in Turkish signifies wanderer, outlaw, bandit. During the time of the Hellenic Heteria and the insurrection of Prince Ypsilanti, there was a Bulgarian chief, who, under the name of Kirdjali, filled all these regions with the terror of his name. The bandit chief offered his services to the Prince, the booty to be gained from Turks, and from the Moldavians too, being probably the only motive. This chieftain, with character somewhat refined and dramatized, is the central figure of Sadyk Pasha's historical romance. Theodore or Tudor, Hospodar of Moldavia; Mahomed Pasha, Seraskier of Ismail; Mikhailaki, the

Arnaut, and other principal personages, are also historical. Enough of love and of adventure is invented by the author to furnish materials for a tale of romantic interest, and he has certainly shown genius and skill in presenting striking pictures of the life and the spirit of the various races of Eastern Europe. At the opening of the story, Kirdjali, a favourite of the Pasha, and one of his Albanian life-guards, had been tempted to join a conspiracy against the Pasha, and had even agreed to assassinate him, which was to be the signal for a general revolt of the Christians. The sight of the Seraskier's daughter paralyzed him, and his patriotism was at once quenched in love:—

"This was the first time he had seen the Pasha's daughter, and it was also the first time that a woman's beauty had awakened his admiration. The glance of Selima's black eye affected him as a guiding lode-star, his anchor of salvation. The features of her face, expressive of her gentleness—her clear olive cheek, delicately suffused with a rosy blush—her ruby lips, the upper one slightly curled with pride—formed, as it were, a mirror, in which he fancied was reflected a rich store of strong emotion and feminine grace peculiar to the women of the East.

"Kirdjali's first glance on her, made him forget alike his solemn oath, and the insult of being called a servant; he even ceased to remember that he was a Slavonian bondsman, and that she was the daughter of the enslaver, and a Mahometan; he loved her with all his soul."

Through the help of the old eunuch, master of the household, gained by bribery, Kirdjali found means, after much difficulty, of meeting with the lovely Selima. At his first interview he learned that she was a Christian, he having lately turned Mussulman in order to please her, as he thought. This leads to some confusion, but we are not going to tell any of the story. Here is the scene of her declaration, and their mutual betrothment:—

"Kirdjali now stood in the presence of Selima. Brave and impetuous as he had hitherto been, he was utterly embarrassed in her presence, and not one word could he utter, but became dumb, and almost paralyzed. Selima blushed, dropped her eyes on the ground and spoke not. Old Zulma, the nurse to Mahomed's daughter, smiled sarcastically on seeing them, and muttered to herself—'Is it only for this, that we have brought them together, through so many perils and difficulties—that now they waste the few precious minutes in looking at each other, and then separate!'

"She was on the point of expressing herself aloud on the subject, when Selima, at the very moment, broke the spell. 'Kirdjali, what dost thou want with me—what art thou come here for?' was her interrogation.

"It is an acknowledged fact with regard to women, that, however young and inexperienced they may be in all such cases, they have the happy knack of getting over the awkwardness of any sudden embarrassing situation sooner than men, and they accomplish this by dropping a gentle word, or by a sweet smile, or some significant gesture, or pleasing expression, and thus men are gradually encouraged to loosen the fetters of their tongues, and give vent to their inmost feelings.

"Kirdjali fell on his knees before the Mahometan maiden, covered her feet and hands with kisses, and reiterated, with impassioned accents, 'Selima, I love thee, I love thee more than life, than the whole world; I love thee above all on earth, or in heaven!'

"These rapturous expressions sounded sweetly in Selima's ear, and the marks of homage captivated her inmost heart. 'Kirdjali,' said she, 'arise from thy kneeling posture, there is a seat, thou hadst better be seated by me.'

"Obedient to her word, Kirdjali sprang up from

his knees in a transport of joy, and wanted to clasp her in his arms, and impress an ardent kiss on her lips. Selima was alarmed, started from her seat, and said, 'What is the matter with thee, Kirdjali? What ails thee? Why art thou so agitated? I beseech thee be composed.'

"At these words the Aga burst into a wild and bitter laugh. 'Thou art right, daughter of a Pasha, in advising me to 'be composed,'—as I am but a slave, a servant of thy father—yet one who dares to love thee—these, who art destined to become the bride of Houssein, the son also of a Pasha. Be composed, forsooth—such is thy advice; and hast thou nothing else to say to me? Yes, I shall be composed, indeed, and even appeased,—but not before I am in my grave.' Having thus given utterance to his bitter feelings, he thrust his right hand under his kaftan.

"Selima after a moment's reflection, with a blushing cheek, though pride sat on her elevated brow, continued, 'Kirdjali, I do love thee,—this I confess, and make no secret of it; but I can never be either Houssein's bride, nor thine.'

"The Aga again fell on his knees before her, and exclaimed, 'No, my angel! on this earth thou art mine, and thou shalt be mine until death!'

"Listen then, Kirdjali,' she continued; 'it is only for my father, Mahomed Pasha, that my name is Selima; but for thee, and for God, I am Sarah Michaela, a Christian. On the very day I first saw the light of heaven, and in the presence of my mother, I was baptized,—and at my baptism, her own name was given me. After her death, I was brought up in the Christian faith, by Zulma, my nurse. Now you know all; decide whether I can be thine, or any Mussulman's, without committing perjury to my God.'

"The whole time she was speaking, Kirdjali gazed on her with tenderness and admiration, and then opening his kaftan, he drew from his bosom the image of the Virgin Mary, saying, 'Sarah Michaela, I am also a Christian,—we are both Christians! It is only for thy sake that I have become a perjurer, a renegade, and a cursed man! It is now for thee to redeem me!'

"On hearing this, Selima cried out, 'Zulma! come, hear this,—Kirdjali is a Christian!—and carried away by the pleasurable excitement of the moment, she threw herself in his arms.

"On his part, Kirdjali, quite enraptured, covered with kisses the lips, eyes, and forehead of the Christian maiden, and warmly pressed her to his heart.

"Old Zulma was agreeably surprised, and lifting her hands to heaven, said, 'May God's blessing be upon you both!' But scarcely had the affectionate nurse ejaculated these pious words, when they saw the eunuch open the door, and announce to them, 'Selima and Kirdjali, it is daylight!' The maiden tore herself from the lover's embrace, and jumped up, exclaiming, almost with a scream, 'Fly! fly! my beloved!'

"Sarah Michaela, before we separate, let us swear an eternal constancy. Wilt thou swear?'

"I swear!' whispered the maiden in a low firm voice.

"After this, Kirdjali departed with the eunuch.

"He descended with his guide into the garden;—it was just daybreak. The eunuch made the Aga enter a dense clump of trees, and leaving him there said, 'Remain here; stir not from this hiding-place; and let not a living soul see you,—for the Pasha takes his usual morning walk in the garden, and occasionally also his guests, if there be any at the Castle—until the hour at which women are privileged to enter it. I am now going to fetch the keys.' Having said this, he went away,—returned in half-an-hour, and found the Aga still concealed among the trees. He then opened the door of the garden, and conducted him safely outside of the precincts of the harem; there they separated; the Aga returning to his dwelling, and the eunuch to his usual work in the garden."

Sadyk Pasha, the author of Kirdjali, is at present commander of the Turkish Cossacks, a corps of mingled Christians and Maho-

metans, embodied by a special firman of the Sultan. They bear on their banner the crescent and the cross. The officers are chiefly Poles; the men are Bulgarians, Albanians, and from Servia, Wallachia, and other Danubian provinces. The translator of the work, Colonel Szyrma, gives the following sketch of Sadyk Pasha's life and career, which will be read with interest from the important position he occupies at the seat of war:—

"Sadyk Pasha is by birth a Pole. He was born in 1804, at Halczyn, near Cudnow, in Volhynia, and was educated in the High School of the Priests of the Order of St. Basilus, at Human. His father was a noble, and owner of considerable landed property; but the family appears to have been of Cossack extraction; one of their names, Czaykowski—which is the former patronymic of Sadyk Pasha—being mentioned among the followers of Nekrasa, when, in 1772, spurning the yoke of Russia, they emigrated to Turkey, and settled in the Dobrudcha. Hence the peculiar delight with which Sadyk Pasha dwells on that band of patriots, called the Nekrasovians, in several parts of this work, may be accounted for; and it may have, also, for aught we know, suggested to him the idea of organizing a similar corps of Cossacks, composed nearly of similar materials, as is that which is now under his command in Turkey. What had been but a dream of the poetical fancy, we find thus realized by his singleness of purpose and perseverance. There may, besides, be observed many other passages throughout the book, expressive of exalted patriotism, and of most noble feelings and aspirations, attributed to the heroes and other actors brought on the scene, but which, in reality, are his own; so that, what at the first glance appears to be the mere machinery of a romance, acquires the importance of autobiography.

"Sadyk Pasha's first military exploits took place during the Polish insurrection of 1831. After its disastrous *dénouement* he followed the rest of his compatriots into exile, and fixed his residence in the French capital. Here he divided his time between the study of strategy, military tactics, and the history of the East of Europe. The latter, as well as the national traditions of its different races, of which he had acquired a rich fund in his youth, and especially from Padur, a popular poet in Padolia, who visited his paternal home, he most successfully employed in the compositions of lighter works of literature.

"The publication of these works, no less than his thorough knowledge of the history of Eastern countries, attracted the notice of Prince Adam Czartoryski, and procured our author an introduction to that eminent protector of national literature among the Poles. Eventually, the Prince sent him, as his confidential agent, on a diplomatic mission to Constantinople.

"On arriving in that city, he succeeded, by the line of conduct he adroitly pursued, in ingratiating himself with the Turkish Divan, and the high personages composing it; inasmuch, that through the intimate confidence they placed in him, he began to exercise a signal influence on the minds of the Slavonic portion of the Sultan's subjects; and what pleased the Turks most, was, that through his agency, Servia was preserved in loyalty to the Sublime Porte.

"The exercise of such influence, however, so foiled the views of Russia, that the ambassador of that power demanded his extradition as the Czar's subject, born under the dominion of Russia. He was at Constantinople with the French passport; he appealed to it; but neither the passport nor the French ambassador, who was his personal friend, was able to protect him. The Russian ambassador's demands were urgent and peremptory. No resource was left him, but either—as Bem and many others before him in such circumstances have done—to embrace Islamism, or fly the country. He chose the first—and adopted the name of Sadyk Pasha.

"Sadyk Pasha's military talents are of the highest order; and they were acknowledged by Omar Pasha in the present campaign. After the defeat of the Russians at Silistria, and on their crossing on the left bank of the Danube, his corps was the first to enter Bucharest. He was commandant of that city until the arrival of the Austrians there; and both he and his corps were great favourites with the Wallachs. Subsequently, Sadyk Pasha was sent to occupy a position on the Sereth, where he had a division of ten thousand troops under his command. At the present moment, after the departure of Omar Pasha to the Crimea, he is with his corps in the Dobrudcha, under the chief command of Ismail Pasha.

"Here he was joined by another corps of the Turkish army, which is commanded by the celebrated Iskander Pasha, (another Pole, Count Ilinski), surnamed 'Karaku', on account of the victory he had gained over the Russians stationed before that place. Both these divisions are in the Dobrudcha to oppose the Russian army, in case it should attempt a passage across the Danube."

The story of Kirdjali, as written by Sadyk Pasha, will not be read at this time as a mere book of entertainment. It throws important light on historical and political events, and affords information on subjects which are daily attracting more public attention in Western Europe. The book being in the form of a novel does not detract from its value in this respect. It is of the habits and manners, the social and political aspirations of the races on the frontier lands of the Christian and the Turk, that we chiefly wish to be informed at the present crisis. Sadyk Pasha is conversant with these subjects, and his story tells us more of them than will be found in mere descriptive and statistical volumes.

The Memoirs of Philip de Commines. Edited, with Life and Notes, by Andrew R. Scoble, Esq. H. G. Bohn.

THE literature of France is rich, above all other departments, in historical memoirs. To give a series of these works is a new and commendable feature in Mr. Bohn's enterprising plan of popular publications. The work of Philip de Commines, who has been called "the father of modern history," fitly forms the first in this historical library. "His memoirs," says Mr. Hallam, "almost make an epoch in historical literature. He is the first modern writer who in any degree has displayed sagacity in reasoning on the characters of men, and the consequence of their actions, or who have been able to generalize his observations by comparison and reflection." "Froissart," says Mr. Scoble, "merely described notable occurrences; Commines delineated great men. If Froissart may be termed the Livy of France, she had her Tacitus in Philip de Commines." What use romance as well as history have made of his memoirs may be seen in Sir Walter Scott's 'Quentin Durward.' Mr. Scoble, in his introductory remarks, cites various testimonies to the merit and value of the writings of Commines from Dr. Arnold, Sir James Stephen, and other modern authors. He has also prepared a very good biography of the author, whom Sir Walter Scott called "one of the most profound statesmen, and certainly the best historian of his age." The story of the times of Louis XI. is certainly one of remarkable interest, and in chronicling the events of French history, much light is also thrown on those of our own country. The following remarks, for instance, on well-known

characters and events, are striking as coming from a contemporary foreigner:—

"The bishop of Bath discovered to the Duke of Gloucester that his brother King Edward had been formerly in love with a beautiful young lady, and had promised her marriage, upon condition he might lie with her; the lady consented, and, as the bishop affirmed, he married them when nobody was present but they two and himself. His fortune depending upon the court, he did not discover it, and persuaded the lady likewise to conceal it, which she did, and the matter remained a secret. After this King Edward married the daughter of an English gentleman, called the Lord Rivers; this lady was a widow, and had two sons. The Bishop of Bath, as I said before, discovered this matter to the Duke of Gloucester, and gave his assistance in the execution of the barbarous designs of the duke, who murdered his two nephews, and made himself king, by the name of Richard III. He caused the two daughters to be declared illegitimate by parliament, took their coats of arms from them, and put all his brother's faithful servants to death, at least all he could get into his power. But this cruel reign did not last long; for being at the height of his pride, in greater pomp and authority than any King of England for a hundred years before, when he had beheaded the Duke of Buckingham, and assembled a numerous army under his own command, God Almighty raised him up an enemy that destroyed him, and that was the Earl of Richmond, a person of no power, and one who had long been prisoner in Bretagne; but he is now King of England, and is of the house of Lancaster, though, as I am informed, not the next heir to the crown.

"This Earl of Richmond told me, not long before his departure from this kingdom, that from the time he was five years old he had been always a fugitive or a prisoner. He had endured an imprisonment of fifteen years or thereabouts in Bretagne, by command of the late Duke Francis, into whose hands he fell by extremity of weather, as he was escaping out of France with his uncle the Earl of Pembroke. I was at Duke Francis's court at the time when they were seized; the duke treated them very handsomely for prisoners, and at King Edward's death supplied the Earl of Richmond liberally both with men and ships; and having intelligence with the Duke of Buckingham (who died for it afterwards) he sent him to land his forces in England; but, meeting with foul weather and contrary winds, he was driven into Dieppe, and from thence went back by land into Bretagne. Being returned into Bretagne, he was afraid, having 600 English in his train, of becoming burdensome to the duke, and feared he might thereby induce him to make some agreement with King Richard, to his prejudice and disadvantage, for he had some intimation that there were secret practices on foot to that purpose; and therefore, he and his whole retinue went away privately, without taking leave of the duke. Not long after, our present king paid for the passage of 3000 or 4000 men, gave him and his companions a considerable sum of money, and some pieces of artillery, and sent him out of Normandy to land in some part of Wales, where he was born. King Richard marched immediately to fight him, but an English gentleman, called the Lord Stanley, who had married the Earl of Richmond's mother, joined the earl with 26,000 men. They came to a battle, and the issue was, King Richard was slain, and the Earl of Richmond crowned King of England on the field of battle, with the crown that King Richard had brought along with him. Will you say this is fortune? Certainly it is the just judgment of God. But, to make it the more evident, not long after the murder of his nephews, as you have heard, he lost his wife, Anne Neville, daughter of the great Earl of Warwick, (some say he made her away); he had but one son, and he died presently after. This would have come in more properly hereafter when I shall have to speak of King Edward's death (for he was alive at the time of the occurrences of this chapter), yet I thought it not

unseasonable here, as being pertinent to my discourse."

'The Memoirs of Philip de Commines' comprise the histories of Louis XI. and Charles VIII., kings of France, and of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, to which will be added in this edition the *Chronique Scandaleuse*, or Secret History of Louis XI., by Jean de Troyes. Mr. Scoble's translation is made from the text of Commines, as restored by Mdlle. Dupont, from whose edition the notes also are chiefly taken.

NOTICES.

A History of the War; or, a Review of Events, Political and Military. By George Fowler. Low, Son, and Co.

Our Heroes in the Crimea. By George Ryan. Routledge and Co.

THE first of these little volumes contains ample information, derived from official or authentic sources, as to all the leading events of the war, from the first difference between Russia and Turkey, down to the end of the year 1854. The work commences with a statement of the origin of the war, and an account of the disputes about the holy places, with the results of the Menschikoff mission, and then gives a clear narrative of the military operations from the invasion of the Principalities to the siege of Sebastopol. Mr. Fowler is well qualified, by his personal knowledge of the east, and from his previous study of Russian and Turkish history, to write such a work. Two maps of the Crimea illustrate the story of the siege. The other volume contains biographical sketches of all the leading soldiers in the British army in the Crimea, with brief notices of many of the officers who have fallen, though not of high rank in the service. It is a work which will prove a gratifying memorial in many a sorrowing household, while the general public will read with patriotic pride the record of the gallant deeds of the heroes of the Crimea.

The Military Forces and Institutions of Great Britain and Ireland; their Constitution and Government, Military and Civil. By H. Byerley Thomson, Esq., author of 'The Laws of War affecting Commerce and Shipping.' Smith, Elder, and Co.

MR. THOMSON has in this work prepared an accurate and comprehensive account of all matters relating to the military services of Great Britain, and also of the laws relating to the army, the marines, the militia, and the volunteer corps. To military men the book will be valuable for study and reference, while it contains much matter that will prove interesting to the general reader at the present time. The best work hitherto available on the subject is by a foreigner, M. Dupin, and that refers only to the military characteristics of the British army, no complete work having yet been published on the civil administration and the internal constitution of the service. On particular departments there are valuable treatises, such as those of Lord Woodhouselee, M^r Arthur, Simmons, and others, on courts-martial; and Prendergast on the law relating to officers of the army, the information contained in which works is embodied in Mr. Thomson's volume. On other subjects the author has diligently collected his materials from Acts of Parliament, Blue Books, and other official sources. On one department, the army medical service, we find deficiency of information, which ought to be supplied in subsequent editions.

Annual of Scientific Discovery; or, Year-Book of Facts in Science and Art for 1855. Edited by David A. Wells, A.B. Trübner & Co.

THIS American annual contains a record of the most important discoveries and improvements in mechanics, useful arts, natural philosophy, chemistry, astronomy, natural history, geography, antiquities, and other departments of science, arts, and learning. Prefixed to the volume are notes by the editor on the progress of science during the year 1854, a well-written summary. It also contains a

list of recent scientific publications, a classified list of patents, obituaries of scientific men, and other miscellaneous matter. The value of the work would be much enhanced if the sources of information were more generally given. We do not see any reason for their omission. Accuracy, not originality, is desired in the editor of such a work. In the 'Year-Book of Facts,' a volume of the same kind, edited by Mr. Timbs, in this country, almost every paragraph is authenticated by a reference to the source whence it is taken. A portrait of Lieut. Maury is prefixed to this volume of the American 'Annual of Scientific Discovery.'

A Remembrance of Drachenfels, and other Poems.

By W. S. T., and H. G. T. Nisbet and Co.
In this little collection of poems there are some pleasing pieces, of which we give a specimen in a Song Written for an Air by Mozart:—

"Where the arch'd boughs on high
Weave a shadowy canopy,
I would silently abide
In the dewy eventide.
Joyous birds no longer sing;
But the bat, on silken wing,
Scarcely appearing to the sight,
Noiseless speeds his phantom flight,

"Now the heaven-enthroned queen
Hath arisen in state serene,
Leading through the darkening sky
All her mystic pageantry.
In the grass the glow-worms bright
Gleam with their enchanted light,
And when weary day is spent
Make a mimic firmament,

"Fondly would I linger here
Till the golden morn appear,
And the glorious king of day
Hold once more his shining way.
Then the world shall wake to toil,
Weary care and dull turmoil,
Till to calm the tumult vain
Dewy eve shall come again."

The majority of the poems are paraphrases of scripture, and other pieces on sacred themes. One is on the fertile subject of Sebastopol.

SUMMARY.

THE fifth volume of the *Collected Works of Dugald Stewart*, edited by Sir William Hamilton, Bart. (Constable and Co.), contains the philosophical essays. Of these essays, three editions have already appeared, the first in 1810, the second in 1816, and the third in 1818. Scarcely any alterations were made during the author's life, but in an interleaved copy of the first edition are some manuscript corrections and additions, which are now embodied. Sir William Hamilton's notes in this volume are few, and not on points of much importance. He has, however, prefixed arguments to some of the chapters, and running titles to the pages throughout, by which the work is rendered more clear for study and convenient for reference.

In one of Bohn's extra volumes are given, *The Exemplary Novels of Cervantes*, translated from the Spanish by Walter F. Kelly (H. G. Bohn). These tales have much of the wit and humour of the author of 'Don Quixote,' and in their character resemble the episodic stories in that great work. Political and social satires on the times are mixed up cleverly with the amusing narrative, as in the following plan hit upon to gain the favour of a corregidor, in order to deal leniently with the hero of a tale who had got into a scrape during a quarrel. "Now the washerwoman of the convent in which the nun lived had a daughter, who was very thick, indeed, with the sister of a friar, who was hand in glove with the said nun's confessor. All he had to do, then, was to get the washerwoman to ask her daughter to get the monk's sister to speak to her brother to say a good word to the confessor, who would prevail upon the nun to write a note to the corregidor, begging him to look into Lope's business, and then beyond a doubt they might expect to come off with flying colours; that is, provided the water-carrier did not die of his wound, and provided also there was no lack of stuff to grease the palms of all the officers of justice, for unless they are well greased they creak worse than the wheels of a bullock-

cart." A very good portrait of Cervantes is prefixed to the volume.

In the Scientific Library (H. G. Bohn), *A Handbook of Domestic Medicine* will prove a valuable book to emigrants and in places where medical advice and assistance are not always at hand. In the Standard Library a new edition is published of *Professor Smyth's Lectures on Modern History*, from the Irruption of the Northern Nations to the close of the American Revolution, to be completed in two volumes. In the Classical Library, a *Translation of the Orations of Demosthenes for the Crown, and on the Embassy*, with Notes, by Charles Rann Kennedy. The appendix contains historical notes and illustrations collected from various sources. *The University College, London, Calendar for Session 1854-55* (Walton and Maberly), contains the annual lists, examination papers, and other documents, with the rules and regulations of the College, and the Statutes of the University.

Under the form of a tale, *The Unspeakable*; or, the Life and Adventures of a Stammerer (Clark and Beston), a full description of this inconvenient malady is given, with advice of the writer as to the surest method of obtaining cure or relief. Of another form of bodily distress an account will be found, with directions for treatment, in *Brodhurst on Lateral Curvature of the Spine* (Churchill), a scientific and practical treatise on the subject.

In a tale, *The Strike* (J. H. Parker), some of the hardships of the working classes are considerably discussed, while the mischiefs resulting from this mode of attempting relief from them are pointed out, the last great strike at Preston furnishing forcible illustrations of the author's statements.

For all who are interested in the colony of Victoria, and in statistical information generally, a most important volume is published at the Government printing office, Melbourne, *The Statistical Register of Victoria*, from the foundation of the colony; with an astronomical calendar for 1855, edited by William Henry Archer, Assistant Registrar of Victoria (Guillaume, London). It is a volume full of valuable colonial history and statistics, most creditable to the industry, skill, and care of the compiler.

Of the following pamphlets and minor publications we give the titles. The first two numbers of a monthly periodical, *The Antiquarian and Ecclesiastical Miscellany* (Wheeler). *The Simple Truth*, a tract for young men (Bull, Hunton, and Co.). *The Coming of the Kingdom*, a prophetic and hortatory tract, by James Douglas, Esq., of Cavers (Constable and Co.). *Question of the Supposed Lost Tribes of Israel*, a paper read before the British Association at Liverpool, by Judge Kennedy, of Havana (Hall, Virtue, and Co.). *Agriculture, Past and Present*, two introductory lectures delivered by John Wilson, F.R.S.E., the new Professor of Agriculture in the University of Edinburgh, this session (A. and C. Black). *The Omrological Almanac for 1855*, with an essay on Anemology and Omrology, by Peter Legh, Esq. (W. Walker). Mr. Legh predicts hail showers for this day, March 24, and fair weather for the four following days, and hazy weather for the rest of the week, by the accuracy of which our readers may determine whether the work deserves attention.

The sixth volume of *The Stratford Shakespeare*, edited by C. Knight (Hodgson), contains the historical plays *Henry V.* and *Henry VI.*, Parts I., II., III.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Buck's *Medieval Poets*, 8vo, cloth, Vol. 2, 10s. 6d.
Cabinet Maker's and Upholsterer's New Design Book, £1 10s.
Chambers's Repository of Tracts, 12 vols., 12mo, 2s. 6d. each.
Dudley's Metallum Martis, square, cloth, 7s. 6d.
Edith Vernon, 3 vols., post 8vo, cloth, £1 1s.
Elliott's (J.) *Algebra*, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Goodwin's (H.) *Christ in the Wilderness*, 12mo, cloth, 4s.
Higginson's (E.) *Astro Theology*, fcap, 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Jeune's Court of England under Stuart, Vol. 3, cr. 8vo, 6s.
Maurice's (F. D.) *Learning and Working*, crown 8vo, cl. 5s.
Miller's (W. A.) *Elements of Chemistry*, 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.
Montgomery's (E.) *Rose of Rostrevor*, post 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
Our Liturgy and its History, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Pratt (J. T.) *Law relating to Highways*, 7th edit., 12mo, 6s.

Robinson's (E. J.) *Romanism in Ceylon*, post 8vo, cloth, 6s.
Ruff's *Guide to the Turf*, spring edit., 1855, 12mo, cl. 2s. 6d.
Scripture Revelations respecting Angels, 2nd edition, 2s. 6d.
Story of a Nun, 3 vols., royal 12mo, cloth, £1 11s. 6d.
Syme on Stricture of the Urethra, 2nd edition, 8vo, cl. 4s. 6d.
Westward Ho! 3 vols., post 8vo, cloth, £1 11s. 6d.
Wilson's Gloss of Judicial & Revenue Terms of India, £2 2s. 6d.
— *Big-Veda Sanhita*, 8vo, cloth, Vol. 2, 10s.
Young's (Rev. R.) *Southern World*, 2nd edit., cr. 8vo, 6s. 6d.

PROFESSOR GAUSS, F.R.S.

WE have this week to record the sudden death of one of the first mathematicians of the age, Professor Gauss of Göttingen. Professor Gauss was born in 1777, in Brunswick; his parents were poor and of a very humble rank in life, but they endeavoured to give their son a good education. His first attempts at the solution of mathematical problems failed so completely that his examiner took him on one side and urged him strongly to forego a study in which it was evident he never could succeed; he was not, however, to be so easily deterred, and in his twenty-fourth year he published his 'Disquisitiones Arithmeticae,' which attracted the attention of all the most scientific men of the day. In July, 1807, (the happiest month, he always said, of his life), he received the appointment of Ordinary Professor and Director of the Observatory at Göttingen, which situation he held for nearly forty-eight years, in spite of many tempting and flattering invitations from other German and foreign universities. Although well versed in general literature, and acquainted with various modern languages, he devoted almost the whole of his life to the study of mathematics, and there are hardly any of the scientific men of Europe or America at the present time, who have not directly or indirectly derived great advantage from his labours. Indeed, many of them have personally studied under him, attending his profound and lucid lectures, which he continued until within two years of his death. He was connected with all the principal scientific associations of Europe, and has been for upwards of fifty years a member of our Royal Society, and of the Academy in Paris. In 1828 he accepted Baron von Humboldt's invitation to attend a meeting of natural philosophers at Berlin, but from that time he never, for a single night, slept from under the roof of the observatory of Göttingen; he never saw a railroad or a steam-locomotive until last year, when the communication was opened between Hanover and Göttingen. He suffered much from asthma, and the last thirty hours of his life were spent in his arm-chair. When the news spread through Göttingen that Gauss was no more, all his friends and acquaintances hurried to the observatory, and there, in the simple, meagrely furnished room, they found the lifeless body of the Professor. He was seated in his arm-chair, both hands resting on his knees, his feet stretched out, and his head, with its flowing locks of silvery hair, sunk on his breast. It was a most impressive sight. The body was opened after death, and careful observations made by Professors Baum, Förster, Fuchs, Henle, Listing, and Wagner. Casts were taken from the brain, (which weighed three pounds), and accurate drawings and measurements of the body and limbs, and a model, in plaster, of the head, were taken by the sculptor Heselmann, (who was summoned by means of the electric telegraph from Hanover,) with the view of erecting a monument to Göttingen's celebrated mathematician. The body of Gauss was then laid in an open coffin in the central hall of the observatory, covered with laurel crowns, and surrounded by candelabras with flaming wax torches. As soon as the state counsellor Von Warnstedt, as representative of the Hanoverian Curatorium, appeared, accompanied by the Göttingen professors in their academic robes, deputations from the town, and long lines of students with their banners, the coffin, still open, was carried out and placed on the terrace before the observatory, where hymns were sung and orations delivered by Professor Ewald, the son-in-law of the deceased, and Professor Sartorius, one of his most intimate friends and favourite scholars; the body was then carried to its last resting-place, and all that was earthly of

this great man returned to its kindred dust. It is related that Laplace, when asked who was the greatest mathematician in Germany, replied, "Pflaff" (the teacher of Gauss); his questioner said he had thought Gauss even more profound. "Ah," said Laplace, "I esteem Pflaff the greatest mathematician of Germany, but Gauss the greatest mathematician in Europe."

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION.

THERE is a marked improvement this year in the quality of this exhibition. The bare statistics of the contents of the room point to a decided progression, both as to the extent and nature of the collection. The number of exhibiting artists has increased from 133 to 170; and of pictures from 440 to about 530, which is nearly in the same proportion. This may be partly due to the advantages of situation which are enjoyed by the Portland Gallery, and partly, we would trust, to the improving prospects of art, even in these troubled times. Of the excellent arrangements in the Gallery, as to hanging, &c., we have before spoken with approbation; and the rooms, being not yet over-crowded, continue to offer great advantages in this respect. An immediate effect of this increase of strength is to give variety to the general effect of the exhibition; the pale green watery landscapes and florid portraits no longer extinguish every other subject, and tastelessness or incompetency cannot stand unimproved.

The most prominent painting, whether as to subject or execution, is by Mr. James Eckford Lauder, R.S.A., from the romance of Sir Tristram and the Knights of the Round Table (375). It represents the knight teaching the fair Isoude to play on the harp; and being a picture of large dimensions, in the heroic style of composition, deserves much consideration. The principal figures are five in number: Sir Tristram, who holds the scroll of music; Isoude, who touches the strings of the harp; a knight and lady, who are listening, absorbed by the musical strains; and Sir Palamides, the rival of Tristram, who eyes the group apace with manifest jealousy. The latter figure is finely conceived, in an attitude scarcely unworthy of Velasquez himself. Figures of ladies, pages, and attendants in the background, complete the subject, which is in every respect a grand production. The manner in which the various dresses and accessory objects have been composed shows great ingenuity and research.

In the large room is an historical picture of almost equal importance, by Mr. R. K. M'lan. The extract in the catalogue from a work of Dr. Jackson, 'View of the Formation of Armies,' gives a full description of this scene. The event is taken from the American war in 1779, when a party of the 71st Highlanders fell victims to a mistaken sense of military duty, in attacking a superior force of the enemy, by whom they were almost entirely destroyed. The actual presence of the deadly combat is finely conveyed to the spectator by the size and nearness of the figures, whose features express their emotions; by the already thickening heaps of slain, and the accuracy with which details of dress and arms are rendered. On the left of the picture, the figure of a treacherous Indian, in his picturesque costume, gives not only variety to the scene, but fixes at once its locality and date. This is true historical painting, vigorous, well studied, and faithful to fact.

Of several pictures contributed by the President of the Institution, Mr. R. S. Lauder, *Imogene* (300) would seem to be on the whole the most successful. The figure very clearly, but not too prominently, represents a disguised female; and the rocks, weeds, &c., are touched with a bold yet accurate pencil. The scene of the *Gow Chrom and Louise* (45), though full of dramatic power, scarcely redeems, by the expression of the former, the heavy figure of the woman, whose dress also is not happily rendered by the employment of a thick layer of paint; the various objects, with this exception, however, are very successful. The *Scene in Ettrick Forest* (272) and *Old Hawthorn* (279)

are too manifestly imperfect to be anything more than elementary sketches.

The landscapes of Sidney R. Percy, which are numerous, along with their invariable care and study, display unusual boldness and freedom. *Near Goring, on the Thames* (293) is in a style less hard and liny than many previous examples, and by the introduction of figures evinces life and novelty. In *Autumn in the Highlands* (401) the glassy lake is rendered with great force, and the scene has a boldness and verity far removed from a dry transcript of nature.

E. Williams, sen., exhibits an old effect in the *Coast Scene* (42), where the cross-lights of the moon and a fisherman's fire are blended with success; whilst *A Thunder-storm* (10), by the same artist, must be classed among the best productions in the collection, from its vivid attempt to reproduce a scene which is nevertheless in many respects beyond the painter's art.

A Morning on the Banks of the Thames (58), by G. A. Williams, gives with unusual delicacy the transient beauties of the hour, the group of foliage in the centre being particularly elegant. *A Calm Evening* (73), is no less carefully elaborated; the pale graduated colour seems to exhale a dewy coolness from the canvass. *Rain on the Thames* (276), and *Winter* (282) are different, but both strikingly successful attempts to reach the more evanescent phases of nature, exhibiting the most studious watchfulness of her varying aspects, and great artistic facility.

Mr. Frank Wyburd among the figure painters is distinguished by a face of much delicate beauty, without a corresponding force of expression, in *Viola* (89), where also the lady is very elegantly disguised in the dress of a page. In the *Matin Prayer* (438), a variety of objects has been introduced, while the figure, again without much animation, is less conspicuous for beauty of feature. But the scene is attractive from its simplicity and completeness. Mr. E. G. Cobbett presents one of his scenes, where the fresh tints and happy faces of childhood as usual enter largely, in *Feeding Rabbits* (406). Mr. C. Dukes also, in two groups (54) and (398), reproduces some pretty faces. *William Tell's Son* (468), by W. S. Burton, is a picture which must attract attention. It is unmistakably in the popular style of elaborate rendering as to details, and of high colour; but everything that it presents pleases the eye. The treatment of the hair, however, has a peculiar effect, and may be compared with that of two figures by Mr. J. E. Lauder, representing *Jeannie and Effie Deans* (3 and 5).

Mr. Provis's interiors are again most admirable, being full of the most interesting and characteristic details, wrought out with a world of minute care, and diffused throughout with warm light. See the interiors (4, 271, and 435). Mr. Wood's architecture is again pre-eminent for accuracy and richness of effect (310, 311, and 312).

Amongst the sea pieces Mr. A. Gilbert, in the scene called *A Break in the Clouds* (33), represents with truth the low banks and muddy water at the mouth of the Thames; and Mr. T. S. Robins has a scene of shipping, full of gaiety and action, *Shrimp Catchers* (141).

A remarkable subject by H. Stacy Marks, called *Vanitas Vanitatum* (227), is full of wonder and character. The symbols of the arts and sciences which lie around the student, (amongst which literature, however, does not seem to have its fair share,) sufficiently proclaim the moral of the story. The idea would seem to be derived from the story of Faust, though the foot which so mysteriously intrudes on the left, is anything but that of Mephistopheles.

Amongst the sketches, mostly in water colours, on the screens, may be noticed a pretty figure, *The Morning of Life* (158), by J. T. M.; a bold and somewhat theatrical study by Karl Hartman, *Vesper Chimes* (164); a fine dark landscape scene by T. C. Dibdin, *Mortimer Common* (175); a sketch in *Venice* (190), by G. P. Boyce; and a favourite subject with architects, *The Apprentice's Pillar in Roslyn Chapel* (294), by J. D. Swarbrick. Miss Howitt has also contributed a double scene, taken

from Shelley's poem of the *Sensitive Plant* (257), exhibiting the two different aspects of that wonderful poetical flora in the appropriate medium of floral painting. The elegant arrangement of the wreaths of botanical symbols displays a great amount of careful study under the guidance of a highly cultivated taste. *Rydal Water* (517), by Mrs. Oliver, is among the most pleasing of her charming landscapes, and second only to the elaborate fruit pieces of Mr. W. Duffield; see particularly *Autumn* (464), and those by Mrs. W. Duffield and Mrs. Bartholomew.

A striking figure of *Pistol* (499), by C. Rossiter, and some gay scenes of mingled humour and description by Mr. D. Pasmore (476 and 482), should not be unnoticed.

In the above enumeration the subjects of interest have been far from exhausted, but enough has been said to point out the increasing value which attaches to the National Institution.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

We have been reminded by a member of the General Committee of the Literary Fund, that our remarks, last week, on the Tavern Bill of that Institution were founded entirely in error.

25, Parliament-street, March 10, 1855.

Dear Sir,—From the respect I have personally for you, and on account of the pleasure I receive from the 'Literary Gazette,' I am desirous to point out a mistake into which you have (I am sure unintentionally) fallen, relating to the cost of the Anniversary Festival, 1854—

The tavern bill was £110 5 0
Musicians 7 7 0

But you omitted to notice the receipts... £117 12 0

Balance £5 1 6

Leaving the whole cost of the anniversary only 51. 1s. 6d.; while last festival, 1854, produced, I think, about 400*l.* profit to the Institution, and the year before about 600*l.*, chiefly attributable to the great exertions of the Secretary, Mr. Blewitt. I am, &c.

To avoid any further misunderstanding of the accounts, we present a copy of the balance-sheet:

Cash Account for 1854.

RECEIPTS.	
Balance in hand, Jan. 1.	£452 13 11
Rents of the Newton Estate	203 0 0
Dividends on Stock, viz.:	
One Year's Dividend on £21,000	
Consols	£630 0 0
One Year's Dividend on £25167	
10s. 10d. Reduced	245 0 8
	875 0 8
Subscriptions and Donations—	
Subscriptions	327 18 0
Donations	601 6 0
	928 4 0
Anniversary Receipts—	
Dinner Tickets	90 9 6
Seven Stewards' Fees	22 1 0
	112 10 6
	£23672 9 1

DISBURSEMENTS.	
Forty-eight Grants for Relief	£1470 0 0
Rent of Chambers	£140 0 0
Allowance for House, Servants,	
Coals, and Gas	40 0 0
Repairs	9 17 7
	169 17 7
Secretary's Salary	200 0 0
Collector's Commission	18 10 5
	218 10 5
Stationery	6 10 2
Printing	58 11 9
Engraving	6 14 6
Advertising	15 18 0
Postage, Petty-Cash, and Miscellaneous	30 1 6
	117 15 11
Anniversary Expenses—	
Tavern Bill	110 5 0
Musicians	7 7 0
	117 12 0
Purchase of Stock, £300 Consols	280 10 0
Balance at Bankers	173 3 2
	£23672 9 1

It will be seen that we mistook the charge of 110*l.* 5*s.* for Tavern Bill, as the balance of the expense of the Dinner after deducting the receipts for tickets, when it appears that this sum is the total cost of the dinner, and that the cost of visitors

tickets is actually covered by the extra funds arising from Stewards' fees. This is as it should be, and we sincerely hope that the festival of 1855, which is to be presided over by the Bishop of Oxford, will be well attended, and prove beneficial to the charity. The main argument as to the heavy cost of administration remains the same. The 500*l.* per annum which has been deemed by a majority of members, not including the officers of the Institution, to be excessive, is made up as follows:—Rent of Chambers, House, Servants, Coals, Gas, and Repairs, 189*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*; Secretary and Collector, 218*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*; and Stationery, Printing, Engraving, Advertising, and miscellaneous, 117*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*,—making together 526*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*

Mr. Thackeray's lecture on 'Humour and Charity,' delivered at the Marylebone Institution on Monday evening, may be regarded as supplementary to his series on the British Humorists. The origin of the lecture he stated to have been a request, on the part of an American lady, that he would repeat one of his lectures for a charitable purpose, instead of doing which he prepared a new discourse under the above title. The repetition of the lecture the other evening was for the assistance of a literary man, reduced to distress by unmerited calamity. The review of the British Humorists, as exerting their influence in behalf of practical charity and the improvement of mankind, is a new and interesting literary subject. In this light the names of Swift and Congreve, for instance, are contrasted with those of Steele and Addison. In the case of the former authors we admire the genius and wit of their writings, while in the latter we love the character and cherish the memory of the men. The remarks on the modern humorists were excellent. If there is less genius and originality now than in older times of our literature, our modern humorists are superior in the moral tone of their writings, more practical in their charity, and more earnest in their endeavour to instruct and improve as well as to entertain. These formed marked features in the writings of Thomas Hood, and now in those of Charles Dickens, of whose works the lecturer gave a graceful and generous commendation.

It appears from an official report recently published in Paris, that the gigantic undertaking of uniting the Louvre to the Tuileries is progressing very satisfactorily and very rapidly. Nearly all the new buildings are raised to their full height, and some of them are actually covered in. The greater part of the scaffolding can be removed in the course of a few weeks, so that visitors to the Exhibition will be able to form an idea of the general plan and execution of the immense construction. The internal fittings-up and decorations, the latter of which are to be of great splendour, will require a long time, perhaps years, to be fully completed. The masonry and other incidental works will cost altogether rather more than 1,200,000*l.*; the expense of decorating the interior cannot yet be estimated. When terminated, the Louvre and the Tuileries united will form an edifice unexampled in Europe for extent and magnificence. The execution of this vast enterprise will be the glory of the reign of Louis Napoleon, but none but a despotic government like his would have dared to burden the nation with the expense of it.

The most important feature in the proposals of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the Newspaper Duties is the abolishing the legal definition of a newspaper, and extending the existing rules to all publications, even though appearing at shorter intervals than thirty-one days. Practically the present law in that respect was incapable of being carried out. The unanimous resolution of the House of Commons, passed last year, was that "the laws in reference to the periodical press and newspaper stamp are ill-defined, and unequally enforced." While some papers were treated with indulgence, others were subjected to vexatious and ruinous interference. Whatever arrangements may be made as to the stamp duty, the postal transmission, or the security system, a great step will be gained in the cause of a free press and of popular education by the abolishing of the arbitrary and ambiguous technical definition now applied by the law to news and newspapers.

A correspondent from Cassel writes, "Lücke, one of the most celebrated of the German theologians since the time of Schleiermacher, was buried a few days ago in Göttingen, of which university he had been Professor for many years. In musical circles I hear a work of the pianist Pacher very highly spoken of; it is entitled, 'Fundamente der Technik des Clavierspiels,' and contains in the first part an analytic exposition of the most important passages in the pianoforte, with the practice of the scales, and in the second, twelve studies. The Duke of Saxe Coburg's opera, *Santa Chiara*, has achieved great success in Germany. In Frankfurt it was given three times in the course of a few days, and each time to crowded houses. From Holland, we learn that Madame Goldschmidt's progress there has been a perfect triumph, and that, with her usual liberality, she has been devoting her time and talents to the cause of the poor. In Amsterdam, I hear, she was enabled to devote between two and three hundred pounds to the aid of the distressed. In Brussels, Monsieur Fetis, the director of the royal Conservatorium, has announced a series of historical concerts, in the first of which he means to give different pieces from the music of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. M. Fetis intends to lecture also on the origin of modern music in Belgium, and on the influence of Belgian artists as founders of great schools of music in foreign countries. From Dresden, we learn that Gutzkow has withdrawn his play, called *Lenz und seine*, from all the German stages, and is about to publish it in its entirety as the eighth volume of his dramatic works. Gaetano Rossi, the Nestor of Italian libretto writers, died a few days ago at Verona, at the advanced age of eighty-three. He had written texts to upwards of a hundred operas for Meyerbeer, Donizetti, Pacini, and other composers. I am sorry to say that dissension has broken into the camp of the Cologne Männer Gesang Verein, and that this celebrated body will probably be broken up in consequence. There is a talk of holding next year in Germany a grand festival, in honour of the anniversary of Mozart's hundredth year birthday."

It has been announced in 'The Times,' on apparently good authority, that an important discovery of ancient Greek sculpture has been made in the course of excavations on the site of the Temple of Juno at Argos. The government has taken charge of the works, and it is confidently hoped that the explorations will bring to light valuable relics of ancient art. Pausanias records that in his time, towards the close of the second century, many temples and statues were at Argos, and though some objects may have been destroyed or removed, there is every probability that the researches of antiquaries will be amply rewarded on the sites of the Argive temples, which were adorned by the greatest sculptors of Greece.

The sale of Mr. Law's collection of autographs, by Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, this week, presented several valuable and interesting literary relics. Among them were letters of Lord Bacon, 15*l.*; Sir Isaac Newton, 4*l.*; Washington, 5*l.*; Sir Christopher Wren, 3*l.*; Nelson, 4*l.*; Chatham, 13*l.* 10*s.*; Garrick, 4*l.* 4*s.* Boswell, 3*l.*; Robert Burns, 4*l.* 15*s.*; Addison, 2*l.* 8*s.*; and two of Oliver Goldsmith's, 15*l.* 12*s.* One could not help wishing that poor Goldsmith could have sometimes commanded, during life, half the money which his posthumous autographs now bring. Yet probably what could be thus easily got, would have even more readily gone than it did.

The statue of Clarendon has been lately removed from the pedestal which it occupied at the entrance to the House of Commons, and that of Selden put in its place. This is surely only a temporary arrangement. The right statue to be the companion of Hampden is that of Falkland. These names are associated by Macaulay, in one of his fine historical parallels, as the representative men of the greatest age of English history.

Cardinal Wiseman delivered a lecture, on Tues-

day evening, in St. Martin's Hall, 'On the War, as it will be viewed by future Historians.' Of the political objects of the Allied Powers a fair account was given, and the military operations were briefly described. The principal part of the lecture was occupied with an inquiry into the causes of the disasters that have befallen our troops. Some of the obvious faults of administration were ably stated; but in speaking of the general system of the English army, and of the control exercised by Parliament, the lecturer betrayed the dislike of our representative government, and the unpatriotic feelings which are characteristic of Ultramontane Romanists. There was throughout the speech an absence of anything to denote that he had the spirit of an Englishman.

Signor Gavazzi gave a lecture last night in the Princess's Concert-room, on 'Nunneries, and their Supporters in Parliament.'

The Bernal Sale continues to excite much interest, as well as unabated competition among collectors. Many of the articles bring ten times the amount given by Mr. Bernal; and in one instance this week thirty times the last price was obtained. It is rumoured that rival agents for Marlborough House and the British Museum have in several cases bid up against each other, a piece of reckless mismanagement which we can scarcely credit, after the extreme principles of economy acted on by Government in regard to education and art.

An interesting course of eight lectures is announced to be delivered at the Royal Institution, commencing April 19th, by Mr. George Scharf, Jun., on Christian Art, from the earliest period, A.D. 300, to the period of Raphael and Michael Angelo, at the close of the fifteenth century. The subjects are divided as follows,—1, The Catacombs of Rome and Churches of Ravenna; 2, Sicilian Mosaics and Architecture; 3, Assisi; 4, Campo Santo at Pisa; 5, San Marco at Florence; 6, The Carmine at Florence; 7, Walls of the Sistine Chapel; 8, The Vatican. From Mr. Scharf's known skill as a draftsman, the lectures will doubtless be well illustrated.

The Archeological Lecture at the Society of Literature on Tuesday was on the food of our ancestors, or, as the learned Professor somewhat facetiously calls it, in his official syllabus, 'The Saxon and early English Cuisine.' Professor Christmas illustrated his subject with numerous citations and anecdotes. The lecture announced for next Tuesday is on the costume of our ancestors, of which the introduction, we believe, was long subsequent to that of the cuisine.

An excellent proposal has been made by Dr. Roots, of Surbiton, which deserves the immediate attention of the authorities. He recommends that short addresses and statements on the war, in Russian, and also in the Finnish and Courland dialects, should be dispersed throughout the countries touched by the Baltic fleet. The people are kept in ignorance of the real state of affairs, and the official proclamations from St. Petersburg turn with false representations as to the objects of the Allies.

The survivor of the Brothers Cheeryble of Dickens, Daniel Grant, Esq., of Manchester, died last week.

Louis Kossuth announces his having formed an intimate connexion with the 'Atlas' newspaper, in which journal he is to commence a series of articles on the 7th April. Of the political opinions of Kossuth it is not for us to speak, but the writings of a man of so much eloquence, energy, and patriotism, will not lower the literary character of English journalism.

The election of Edward Matthew Ward, as a Royal Academician, on the 14th inst., has given general satisfaction among artists, and is regarded by the public as a well-merited distinction.

The lovers of English music will be glad to hear that the Afternoon Vocal Concerts of Sir Henry Bishop's compositions, at the Hanover-square Rooms, will be renewed after Easter, and that in the meantime a monster concert will be given, under the direction of the veteran composer, on Tuesday next, at Exeter Hall.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

LINNEAN.—Feb. 20th.—Thomas Bell, Esq., President, in the chair. Dr. W. F. Daniell, F.L.S., presented specimens of three varieties of rice from the kingdom of Nyami, Upper Gambia, together with the fruits of *Amomum Daniellii*, *A. cereum*, *A. latifolium*, *A. exscapum*, and *A. Granum Paradisi*, from Western Africa. A collection of dried plants from Victoria (mostly new to the Society's herbarium) was presented by Dr. Ferdinand Müller, government botanist to the colony, together with the first number of the 'Transactions of the Philosophical Society of Victoria.' The list of books received since the last meeting likewise included Part 6 of the 'Botany of the Voyage of H.M.S. Herald,' presented by the author, Dr. Berthold Seemann, F.L.S., and the concluding numbers (7 and 8) of the 'Flora of New Zealand,' presented by the author (Dr. J. D. Hooker, R.N., F.R. & L.S.) and publisher (Lovell Reeve, Esq., F.L.S.). Read, a letter from Mr. E. D. Lockwood, of Haileybury College, Herts, recording the occurrence in that neighbourhood, during the late severe weather, of the red-throated diver, the little auk (both killed between Ware and Hertford), and other rare birds. Read, also, the continuation of Dr. J. D. Hooker's 'Memoir on the Root-parasites of the Natural Order *Balanophorea*,' commenced at the meeting of the 6th inst. This very elaborate memoir was accompanied by a most extensive series of drawings, many of them (more especially those of the East Indian species) from the pencil of the indefatigable author. The materials employed in preparing this paper included a very complete set of the American species, collected by Mr. W. Purdie in New Granada, Jamaica, and Trinidad; specimens and drawings of the species collected in Mexico by Professor Liebmann; Brazilian specimens of *Langsdorffia hypogaea*, and *Kelosia guyanensis* from Rio, together with sketches made on the spot, by Mr. Miers; drawings of the same genera, made in Guiana, by Sir R. Schomburgk; specimens of the South African genera *Sarcophyte* and *Mystropteron*, communicated by Dr. Harvey; a very extensive series of specimens of the Indian *Balanophorea*, of which, during his residence in the Himalaya and Khasya mountains, Dr. Hooker was enabled to study six species in many stages of growth; the Indian specimens collected by the late Mr. Griffith, and described in the Linnean Transactions; Lobb's Javanese specimens, &c. &c.; the total number of species thus brought together being about thirty, of twenty-six of which the author had examined both sexes. After giving an extremely interesting account of the mode of parasitism and structure of the rhizome, the author proceeds to detail at considerable length the peculiarities observable on a microscopic examination of their tissues; the characters presented by their foliar organs, which, in this family, are represented by mere scales, and even these, in some species, almost wholly wanting; the modifications of their inflorescence, their floral organs, seed, &c. He then goes on to discuss the affinities of the order, and its proper place in the natural systems, points upon which, owing to its unusually polymorphous character, a singular difference of opinion has prevailed among botanists, by whom it has been successively referred to the three great divisions of the vegetable kingdom. The position which Dr. Hooker himself assigns to the *Balanophorea* is among the Epigynous *Calyciflorae*, "a group which, though far from being well limited as a natural class, is, in our present state of knowledge, one of considerable value, as comprehending many nearly-allied natural families. Amongst them, the most direct relation of *Balanophorea* is certainly with *Haloragaceae* and *Gunnera*, with both of which it presents many important characters in common, and between which I would place it in the linear series." With respect to the geographical distribution of the order, the author observes, that "the greater number of *Balanophorea* belong to the tropical and sub-tropical mountains of Asia and South America, where they probably occur in about equal proportions. In both hemispheres

certain species ascend to 10,000 feet; comparatively few being found in low tropical forests, almost the only species being *Balanophora fungosa* in the eastern, and *Helosia guyanensis* in the western hemisphere. A considerable number are extratropical, as *Cynomorium*, which attains latitude 41° N. in Europe; the two *Mystroptera* and *Sarcophyte*, which inhabit South Africa; an *Helosia* from the Plate district; and the North Indian species of *Balanophora* and *Rhopalocnemis*. The genus *Balanophora* is confined to India and the Malay and West Polynesian Islands: it extends from the north-west Himalaya at Simla, throughout that mountainous range to the eastward, thence to the Khasia mountains, Burmah, and the Malay peninsula, Sumatra, Java, the north-east coast of New Holland, as far east as the New Hebrides; it is also found in the Indian peninsula, Ceylon, and the Philippines, and, no doubt, occurs in Borneo and New Guinea. The *Helosideae*, with the exception of the Indian *Rhopalocnemis*, are confined to the American continent, where they extend from Mexico to the Pampas. Of the *Langsdorffia*, two species are American, and one is found on the west coast of tropical Africa. The *Lophophyteae*, as far as is known, all inhabit the Andes, and are confined to Peru and New Granada. The individual species of this order have often exceedingly wide ranges, though some are extremely local. The most conspicuous examples of extensive distribution are *Cynomorium coccineum*, which ranges from the Canary Islands to the mouths of the Nile—viz., through 3000 miles of longitude; *Rhopalocnemis*, found in latitude 27° N. in East Nepal and Sikkim, in the Khasia mountains, and in Java under the line, places no less than 3000 miles apart; *Balanophora dioica*, which has probably a still wider range; and *B. fungosa*, which is found both in East Australia and Tanna, places separated by 1500 miles of ocean. In the New World, *Langsdorffia hypogaea* has been found in the province of Oaxaca, in Mexico, in the mountains of New Granada, and at Rio de Janeiro, having thus a range of 4000 miles in a straight line."

ETHNOLOGICAL.—Feb. 14th.—Dr. Conolly, President, in the chair. 'On the Ordeal or Fetish Tree of Western Africa,' by Dr. Daniell. The general history of this tree is comparatively unknown; its botanical characters were described. For different economic purposes, or for the cure of disease, almost every part of it is held in esteem, but it is chiefly known for the use of the bark as a forensic test in fixing criminality in suspected cases, and for the infliction of capital punishment. This tree at maturity becomes one of the most majestic and magnificent of the forest giants. It chiefly delights in humid and swampy localities, on the banks of rivers, and even on the borders of petty brooks, or lowlands permeated by their course, and affording a good supply of moisture. The negroes, though fully aware of its noxious qualities, esteem it for the medicinal virtues of the bark, and the use of it for building, &c. The ordeal tree has a variety of names, some native and some foreign. The terms used in common parlance, as 'saasy' or 'saucy wood,' mostly in use among the Kroomen, and other windward coast tribes, indicate the potent and pernicious influence of the bark upon the human system, and upon animals and reptiles. The term 'red-water-tree,' is used principally by the colonists of Sierra Leone and adjacent territories, in consequence of a red gummy secretion exuding from the bark, or the reddish coloured infusions made from the same, while those of 'doom' or 'adum' are Fanté and Ashantee designations, considered to be applicable to the same production, or to another species belonging to the genus. The appellations of 'greegree' and 'fetish tree' originate from the test draughts prepared from the bark, and given by the Fetish men or priests in certain trials or religious ceremonies, during which the mysterious influence of the concoction is then auspiciously evoked, to determine the innocence or guilt of the accused, whenever judicial modes of inquiry had proved doubtful or abortive. For the botanical discovery

of this plant it appears we are indebted to Dr. Affrelius, who during several years' sojourn in Sierra Leone became well acquainted with it. He transmitted specimens of the leaves and flowers to England, now deposited in the Banksian collection of the British Museum. Owing to the red coloured secretion that exuded in a natural state from the bark, and particularly if any portion had been previously abraded, he conferred upon the tree the title of *Erythrophleum* (from *erythron*, red, and *phleu*, to flow.) Dr. Daniell quoted at considerable length from the works of several botanical writers of this far-famed plant, giving a full account of its different species, and the various uses made of it by the native tribes of Western Africa. Dr. Winterbottom has described in his work the proceedings relative to the management of this fearful mode of trial, with the method of preparing the test draughts from the bark of the tree. He observed that these ordeal potions were concocted from the bark of this vegetable product, generally termed by the people 'red water,' which possesses certain emetic and purgative properties, independently of other important characters. To prevent any doubt arising that these potions were improperly produced from bad or false materials, the bark was invariably exhibited in public before a large concourse of the natives. A limited quantity of the powdered substance (a calabash full) was mixed, in a moderately-sized pan, with several quarts of water, and was thoroughly blended together until a species of froth, said to resemble the lather of soap, floated on the surface. A variety of religious ceremonies were then performed. The accused, previously to swallowing the draught, was compelled to eat a little rice or a piece of kola-nut. The liquid was continuously given until vomiting occurred, and the rice or kola ejected from the stomach, and when these were observed, a verdict of acquittal was forthwith pronounced. If, on the contrary, purging was induced, the accused was found guilty. The largest amount of liquid permitted to be drunk must never exceed sixteen calabashes full. Upon the expiration of an allotted period, if neither vomiting nor purging was created, but pains in the abdomen were felt, the condemnation of the individual was deemed effective. Those who survived this ordeal are received with great éclat by their relatives and friends, are paraded about the town decked out in their richest dress, and, with an ostentatious parade of outraged virtue, receive the congratulations and salutes of the population. In cases where women have been tried for adultery by this test, and acquitted, the scenes of festivity are of a much more irregular character; for, accompanied by a troop of noisy females, she is triumphantly carried throughout the town, visiting the homes of her friends and relatives, while her companions, with songs of exultation and delight, recite in an adulatory strain her manifold virtues and perfections. A few writers on Western Africa have traced some analogy between this mode of trial and the bitter water mentioned in the books of Moses. There is, however, this distinctive peculiarity, that while the former is always more or less poisonous, the latter was never so; and even when the culpability of the woman was determined, it does not necessarily deprive her of life, as is so frequently the effect of the African test. An interesting discussion followed, after which a paper was read, 'Remarks on the Analysis and Comparison of the Personal Pronouns in the Shemitic and Old Egyptian Languages,' by Richard Cull, Hon. Sec.

GEOLOGICAL.—Feb. 21st.—W. J. Hamilton, Esq., President, in the chair. E. Hull, Esq., was elected a Fellow. The following communication was read:—'On the Occurrence of Glaciers and Icebergs during the Permian Epoch.' By Professor Ramsay, F.G.S. The conclusions arrived at in this paper were made in July, 1854, during an examination of the Permian breccias, near Enville, in South Staffordshire, and on the Clint Hills and Bromsgrove Lickey, and on the Abberley and Malvern range. These rocks consist of transported

fragments, of various sizes, imbedded in a hard, red, marly paste. They are generally angular or subangular, a well-rounded pebble being of rare occurrence. The larger fragments vary from one to four feet in diameter, and they consist of pieces of altered slate, green and purple slate, sandstone, conglomerates, black and blue slate, greenstones, felstones, felspathic ash, &c.; all lithologically distinct from any of the rocks in their neighbourhood, and apparently identical with the rocks of the Longmynd and the Lower Silurian country east of the Stiper Stones. Pieces of Caradoc limestone, having all the peculiarities, both zoologically and lithologically, of the rock of that country, are also common. Many of the stones have their sides somewhat flattened, and others are polished and more or less marked by striae, undistinguishable in general character from some moraine fragments of existing Alpine glaciers, or from the ancient moraines of the Vosges, the Scotch Highlands, Ireland, and Wales, or from the scratched fragments in the pleistocene drift. It was argued that, from their angularity, their size, and the distances they had travelled (fifty miles in many cases), they could have been transported only by icebergs, which descended from the Longmynd and the Welsh border, and, breaking off at the sea-level, floated hither and thither, and deposited their freights in the Permian sea. A fault of from 2000 to 3000 feet throws down the Longmynd country on the west, so that the present relative elevation of these rocks to the Permian breccia gives no clue to their ancient physical relations. More especially, as even without the fault, a mere tilting of the ground to the extent of 2° or 3° would make a difference of several thousand feet in their relative heights. It was also argued that the Permian fauna and flora afford no argument against the glacial character of a small part of the Permian epoch: first, because that fauna and flora are not at all essentially tropical in their nature; and, secondly, because there is no *a priori* reason why there might not be a glacial episode during Permian ages, as in Tertiary times, that comparatively so nearly approach our own; for if the crag and all the pleistocene beds and the deposits now forming were thrown as far back in time, solidified, and highly disturbed, we should certainly, because of their fauna, include them all in one geological epoch; yet in the midst of that period, in the British area we have had glaciers with great moraines, and drifting icebergs scattering clay and boulders in the lowlands of England. It was further argued, that the radiation of heat from the interior of the globe has not affected external climates since the earliest fossiliferous epochs; and, though climates have changed, this must be referred to some other cause: for the melting-point of ordinary lava is about 1834° Fahr.; and assuming the increment of heat to be about 1° Fahr. for every sixty feet of depth, the temperature of rocks would rise to 1834° Fahr. at 116,100 feet beneath the surface; and rocks might at least be metamorphosed when long subjected to so great heat. The present external effect of internal temperature is estimated at one-twentieth of a degree Fahr.; but to effect external climate 1° Fahr., the descending rate of increase must have been about 20° Fahr. for every sixty feet, and the equivalent temperature of the surface melting-point of lava would be reached at a depth of 5864 feet. In North Wales, there are in place at least 32,000 feet of conformable Silurian and Cambrian strata, which, except that they are hardened and cleaved, have only in rare places undergone any high degree of alteration. This would not have been the case had the rocks in general attained the melting-point of lava at a depth of only 5864 feet; and even then the increment of internal temperature would be too small to affect the external climate, so as to give it a character at all approaching tropical heat.

ANTIQUARIES.—*March 8th.*—Admiral W. H. Smyth, V.P., in the chair. An announcement was made of a further exchange of proclamations effected with Queen's College, Oxford. The Secretary

exhibited several objects in bronze, among which was a curious mould for casting celts, ornamented with a novel pattern. Mr. Pycroft presented to the Society a curious painting on canvas, representing Saint Martin dividing his cloak with a beggar, the saint being depicted on horseback as usual. This relic had probably formed the flag of a processional banner. It appears to be of the fifteenth century. Mr. Edmund Waterton exhibited several curious medieval rings in his possession, among which is one set with a sapphire, on which is a veiled female head, while on the setting which encircles it is the legend TECTA. LEGE. LECTA. TEGE in gothic characters. Mr. Brook Yates communicated a transcript of a document in his possession, containing a proposition for a general insurance of all shipping, and of imports and exports throughout the kingdom. The insurance on the part of British subjects to be compulsory, and foreigners to be admitted to the same privileges on the payment of an extra premium. The Secretary read a communication from Mr. Brooke 'On the Field of the Battle of Tewkesbury.'

R. S. OF LITERATURE.—*Feb. 28th.*—Sir John Doratt, V.P., in the chair. Mr. Birch read an interesting paper, in French, by M. François Lenormant, the son of the well-known keeper of the antiquities in the Bibliothèque Impériale at Paris, 'On a Monument of the Conquests of Ptolemy Evergetes I.' The object of M. Lenormant's paper was to show the remarkable coincidence between the celebrated Greek inscription found at Adulis, and preserved by Cosmo Indicopleustes, and the Egyptian inscription discovered by M. Champollion at Esneh, in Egypt. It was illustrated by a careful philological examination of the names of persons and places occurring in it.

March 14th.—Sir John Doratt, Vice-President, in the chair. Mr. Vaux read an interesting paper by the Marchese Gargallo Grimaldi, 'On a Painting which occurs on an unedited Greek Vase,' representing an altar between two Doric columns, surmounted by a mystical figure, probably intended for a siren. The Marchese considered that the columns have a sepulchral meaning, and that the whole picture indicates a cemetery in some rural site. The Marchese pointed out the direct analogy which exists between the siren, as shown in his painting, and the harpy figures on the monument discovered by Sir Charles Fellows at Xanthus.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Monday.**—Geographical, 8½ p.m.—(1. Extract of a Letter received by Admiral Smyth from Admiral Mathieu, on the Progress of the Survey in the Straits of Gibraltar; 2. Despatch from Loanda respecting Dr. Livingston's exploration in Central Africa, communicated by Consul Brand; 3. On the Ruins of Fical, near the lake of Peten, in Central America. By Don Vicente T. D. B. Castellanos.)
- Institute of Actuaries, 7 p.m.—(An Examination of the Objections urged against the Plan of Decimal Coinage, proposed by the Royal Commissioners, and by the Select Committee of the House of Commons. By Charles Jellicoe, Esq., V.P.)
- Tuesday.**—Medical and Chirurgical, 8½ p.m.
- Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(Discussion upon Mr. Robinson's paper on the Application of the Screw Propeller to the larger class of Sailing Vessels, and on the construction of Railway Crossings and Switches. By Mr. B. Burleigh.)
- Meteorological, 7 p.m.—(On the Recent Cold Weather, and on the Crystals of Snow observed during its Continuance. By James Glaisher, F.R.S.)
- Royal Institution, 8 p.m.—(Professor Tyndall on Electricity.)
- Wednesday.**—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—(Dr. W. H. Smith on the Utilisation of the Molten Mineral Products of Smelting Furnaces.)
- Microscopical, 8 p.m.
- R. S. of Literature, 4½ p.m.
- Thursday.**—Royal, 8½ p.m.
- Antiquaries, 8 p.m.
- Royal Institution, 8 p.m.—(Mr. W. B. Donne on English Literature.)
- Friday.**—Chemical, 8 p.m.—(Anniversary.)
- Royal Institution, 8½ p.m.—(Rev. J. Barlow, F.R.S., Vice-President R.I., on the Application of Chemistry to the Preservation of Food.)
- Saturday.**—Medical, 8 p.m.
- Royal Institution, 8 p.m.—(Dr. Gladstone on the Principles of Chemistry.)

VARIETIES.

Female Shakespearean Criticism.—Miss Bacon, sister of Rev. Dr. Bacon, of New Haven, Ct., and heroine of Caroline Beecher's singular book a few years since, who is expected home from England soon, has attracted some notice abroad as the author of a new theory of Shakespeare. Miss Bacon assumes, as we understand, that it was absolutely and utterly impossible for a man with the limited advantages of Shakespeare's early life, to write thirty-seven plays exhibiting the marvellous knowledge of men and things which the plays attributed to him do exhibit. Such a series of performances, she urges, by such a man, would be a series of miracles; and had any man the power to perform the half of them, he would have become one of the most prominent men of his day, and we should have known all about him, instead of having to grope and burrow for a very few personal traits and anecdotes of his life, as we have had to do with regard to William Shakespeare. She attributes them chiefly to Lord Bacon, with a few by Sir Walter Raleigh, and others; and she has spent a great deal of time in framing an ingenious and elaborate argument in support of her theory.—*American Literary Gazette.*

The late John Martin's Plans for Improving the Thames.—We have had more than one inquiry concerning the plans designed and prepared at so much cost of thought and money by the late Mr. John Martin for the improvement of London; and one writer is under the impression that they are in the hands of some who have no right to them. We find, however, that the drawings are all in the safe keeping of Miss Martin, the painter's daughter, who, more than any one else, aided her father for years in setting forth his views, and bringing them under the notice of persons interested in the matter.—*The Builder.*

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